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# DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the Press Service, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture to present items of interest to agriculture and to agricultural workers. Views and opinions in these items are not necessarily approved by the Department.

Vol. LXXVII, No. 1

Section 1

April 1, 1940

"DUST BOWL" PROSPECTS FAVORABLE "A 50-mile-an-hour wind which kicked up dust through Central Kansas and Oklahoma failed to penetrate the Dust Bowl proper, according to reports this week-end from widely separated points in the far western side of the winter wheat belt," says John M. Collins in a Kansas City report to the New York Times. "...The tide of emigration has reversed itself and farmers are beginning to come back, according to old residents of the area who have stuck it out through high winds and drought. J. R. Paine, county assessor in Texas County, estimates the number of farm families in Texas, the central county of the three comprising the Oklahoma Panhandle, has increased at least 15 percent in the last two years.

F. Hiner Dale, judge of the Panhandle district, says there is a land boom on in the Panhandle area. Oran Bell, county administrative assistant for the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, who has lived in the area all his life, adds <sup>that</sup> the belief that the section has the best spring crop prospects since 1932 is attracting settlers. A shortage of farms for tenants seeking land and a shortage of good houses where land can be obtained are reported by residents..."

FDA LABEL COURT TEST "The first court challenge of the validity of a labeling regulation issued under the new federal food, drug and cosmetic act drew the interest of the food industry in New York last week to an impending legal battle between the cane and beet sugar interests on one hand and the U.S. Department of Agriculture on the other," says Charles E. Egan in the New York Times. "In a petition to the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals; the United States Cane Sugar Refiners Association and the United States Beet Sugar Association, together with individual members of both groups, have appealed for a judicial review of an order by Secretary Wallace permitting peach canners to use dextrose without indicating the ingredient on the label..."

G. A. LOVELAND George Andrew Loveland, chief meteorologist at the Boston Weather Bureau station for ten years prior to his retirement in 1933, died day before yesterday in Florida, according to word received in Boston. Mr. Loveland retired after 51 years in the Weather Bureau service. (New York Times.)



Oklabar                      "Development of a new breed of chickens whose sex  
Poultry                      can be determined as soon as they hatch has been ac-  
                                    complished at Oklahoma A. and M. College by Dr. R. George  
Jaap, poultry specialist," says Phil Perdue, in Country Gentleman (April).  
"He started work four years ago, using as foundation stock White Plymouth  
Rock, Rhode Island Red and Dark Cornish fowls. The new breed, which he  
has named 'Oklabar,' has easily distinguishable markings. The male  
chicks are light-colored and the females are dark. They have barred  
markings which resulted in the last half of the name. Segregation of  
the males and females is quite easy. Many of the newly developed birds  
have proved to be good layers and to have good meat body shape. However,  
considerable experimentation must yet be carried on to establish uniform-  
ity of feathering, body shape, egg production and other desirable character-  
istics. Doctor Jaap estimates that it will take four years longer to  
perfect the Oklabars. Known as an autosexing breed, they have proved to  
be 100 percent accurate in color differentiation at birth."

Arkansas                      The six families operating the state's first farm  
FSA Tenants                  tenant purchase project near Wrightsville (Arkansas)  
                                    financed by the Farm Security Administration, have made  
their 1939 payments in full, purchased most of the necessary livestock  
and farm equipment, and face the growing season with no current bills  
due, says a report in the Arkansas Gazette. The 575-acre tract, of  
which nearly half is uncleared, was purchased by the government more  
than two years ago, and divided into five units. Purchase prices of  
the tracts ranged from \$3,475 to \$5,580. The loans were made by the  
government on a 20 to 40-year basis. The purchase price included a nice  
frame house, large barn and one or two small out-buildings. Mr. Huitt,  
farmer on one of the units, told a Gazette reporter the biggest factor  
in the success of the tenants were the low interest rate of the loans,  
ability to obtain money for good equipment and good seed, plus the ab-  
sence of the need for large expenditures for upkeep and replacements.  
(PPS265.)

Exports to                      A Buenos Aires cable to the New York Times says the  
Argentina                      United States replaced Great Britain as the chief source  
                                    of Argentina's import trade in the first two months of  
this year, supplying 27.1 percent of the total, compared to Britain's  
20.9 percent, according to the monthly report of the National Statistical  
Bureau. Imports from the United States in January and February totaled  
58,372,230 pesos, compared to 44,994,981 from Britain. The peso is worth  
24 cents on the free market. The report shows imports from Britain were  
9,000,000 pesos more than in the first two months of last year while im-  
ports from the United States more than doubled in value.



**Farm-Built Electrical Equipment**      "The Agricultural Education Service of the U. S. Office of Education, in cooperation with the Rural Electrification Administration, has in preparation a bulletin entitled 'Building Electrical Equipment for the Farm,'" says W. A. Ross, specialist in agricultural education, Office of Education, in Rural Electrification News (March). "This publication is designed for the use of teachers of vocational agriculture and will provide them with organized teaching material and directions on a dozen or more safe home-made electrical devices, the cost of which is extremely low. Included in the new bulletin will be analyses of such devices as the following: electric ~~chick~~ brooder; electric pig brooder; rigging a portable electric motor; electric stock tank water heater; electric hotbed; and poultry water warmer... In the new bulletin other types of farm-built electrical equipment are included, such as a 'motor-toter' for moving larger electric motors and an ultra-violet reflector. The bulletin outlines a step-by-step procedure, supplemented by necessary illustrations, photographs, and drawings....."

**Rural Public Power Districts**      "Thousands of farms are getting electricity through public power districts, a form of organization, which though essentially cooperative in spirit, differs in many details from the cooperative form used by the majority of REA borrowers," says Arnold E. Sukrow, REA Regional Operations Supervisor, in Rural Electrification News (March). "....In 1913, California became the first State to authorize the formation of districts primarily for electric service. Two years later, Nebraska, Arizona, and Montana followed suit. By 1936, nineteen States permitted the formation of power districts. The establishment of REA in 1935 and the availability of adequate Government loans gave a needed impetus to the power district movement....."

"As of March 1, 1940, 34 public power, utility, and irrigation districts had been allotted \$12,434,200 by REA for the construction of distribution lines in rural areas, the construction of one generating plant in Washington, and numerous wiring and plumbing loans. Leading all other States using this type of organization was Nebraska, whose 28 rural public power districts have been allotted \$10,700,700. Three Washington public utility districts, irrigation districts in Arizona and California, and a Nevada power district make up the remainder. Distribution of rural power by these public utility districts is expected to show a large increase in the next few years....."

**Feed Grain Production**      Production and supplies of feed grains in 1940 will be a little smaller than in 1939, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics has reported, if the growing season is about average and feed grain acreages are about as indicated on March 1. The prospective plantings report of March 1 indicated a 4 million-acre reduction in the corn acreage, slightly larger acreages of oats and barley, and a 1 million-acre increase in grain sorghums.

Senate Passed H. Con. Res. 51, to extend the Joint  
March 28 Committee on Forestry until April 1, 1941.

House Passed H. R. 9007, Labor-Security appropriation  
March 28 bill. In the House, agreed to the Leavy amendment  
increasing Civilian Conservation Corps item from  
\$230,000,000 to \$280,000,000. In the House, agreed to the Johnson  
amendment increasing National Youth Administration item from \$79,635,000  
to \$97,085,000.

Committee on Public Lands reported without amendment H. R. 8356,  
for the exchange of lands adjacent to the San Juan National Forest and  
the Rio Grande National Forest in Colorado. (H. Rept. 1897).

Senate Continued debate on H. J. Res. 407, to extend the  
March 29 Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act for 3 years from June  
12, 1940. Rejected the Pittman amendment requiring  
Senate approval of trade agreements, by a vote of 41 to 44.

Passed S. J. Res. 200, to provide for participation of the U. S.  
in the Golden Gate International Exposition in 1940.

Recessed until Monday, April 1.

House Passed H. R. 9109, D. C. appropriation bill.  
March 29 Adjourned until Monday, April 1.  
(From the Office of Budget and Finance.)

New Paint "Ready-mixed white lead paint in colors is now on  
Products the market," says Farm Journal and Farmers Wife (April).  
"The new product eliminates the work of thinning and  
tinting. Paints and varnishes made from soybean, tung and perilla  
oils are standing the test of exposure so well that they are accepted  
by the paint industry just the same as 'the old reliable' linseed oil.  
Soybean oil paints harden and dry a little slower than paints from the  
other oils, but that doesn't keep the soybean oil paint from giving  
good service. Tests at the U. S. Regional Soybean Laboratory in  
Illinois show that paints made from soybean oil (also with half soybean  
and half perilla) are in excellent condition on outside fences after  
two years of weathering. The Chicago Paint and Varnish Production Club  
tested 30 enamels made with soybean oil and found them better than  
other enamels when subjected to intermittent exposure and to ultra-  
violet light....."

Food Stamp The Department has announced the appointment of H.C.  
Director Albin as Director of the Stamp Division of the Federal  
Surplus Commodities Corporation. He also will continue  
his present administration of the direct distribution and school lunch  
programs of the corporation. In announcing Mr. Albin's appointment, Milo  
Perkins, President of the FSCC, said that it will make possible more  
coordination in the administration of the programs to deal with agricul-  
tural surpluses.



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Vol. LXXVII, No. 2

Section 1

April 2, 1940

**FCA BILL** Independence for the Farm Credit Administration  
**TESTIMONY** was urged in a Senate committee yesterday as hearings began on the Gillette bill to separate the FCA from the Department of Agriculture, says a report by a Washington Post staff writer. "To vest supervision of farmers' credit agencies in any political department means that they will be immediately weakened and ultimately destroyed," the subcommittee was told by John D. Miller, president of the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives.

Emphasizing his "growing fear of centralization of authority in Washington," L. J. Taber, master of the National Grange, declared that "agriculture is especially concerned in an independent loan agency, free from political pressure on one hand and official pressure on the other."

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**TOBACCO** An abnormally large prospective supply and re-  
**OUTLOOK** duced export outlets make the outlook for flue-cured tobacco appear generally unfavorable for the 1940-41 season, reports the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. A large prospective supply of burley, although not of record proportions, indicates that the market situation may not be greatly different from that of 1939. The outlook for fire-cured, dark air-cured and cigar types is relatively favorable on the basis of March 1 acreage intentions.

Reduced exports and the large 1939 production (1,132,436,000 pounds) of flue-cured tobacco are expected to result in flue-cured stocks as of July 1, 1940, totaling 1,450,000,000 pounds, an amount more than 53 percent larger than flue-cured stocks a year earlier. Burley stocks, estimated at 756,000,000 pounds as of October 1, 1940, are about 10 percent larger than those of October 1, 1939. The effects of large stocks will be partly offset by a prospective reduction in acreage as a result of the agricultural adjustment program.

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**WASHINGTON** Washington's famed cherry trees will burst into  
**CHERRY TREES** full bloom the week end of April 12 to 14 for the benefit of thousands of visitors, Frank T. Gartside, assistant superintendent of the office of National Capital Parks, forecast yesterday after a personal inspection. He found the buds so tight, he said, that a possible low temperature would have no effect on them. The cherry blossom display will come about a week later than usual. (Washington Star.)  
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Veterinary Medicine      "Organized veterinary medicine is integrating into a more solid unit; loose ends are being spliced together as in other societies of the arts and sciences exploiting a nation-wide jurisdiction," says an editorial in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association. "It is now a going federation of the state associations of the United States and of the three principal ones of the Dominion of Canada, with the prospect that these components will seize the opportunity of cooperating in the same general way with the local organizations within their respective states.....In the veterinary profession, the county society, except in congested centers, could not have sufficient numbers to maintain a satisfactory working unit. But, in lieu thereof, there are existing local associations whose territory could easily be outlined to serve the same purpose as the county societies serve in medicine and dentistry. The national association which represents the veterinary profession of the United States and Canada is looking ahead to the day when all of its membership will come through the state associations which, in turn, would recruit their members from the locals."

Skim Milk Utilization      "Skim Milk -- A Neglected Food" is an editorial in the American Journal of Public Health (March). "At our annual meeting (of the American Public Health Association) in 1939 we had one paper of unusual character which called attention in a striking way to a great and increasing waste of a valuable food -- the use of skim milk for manufacture of various articles," it says. "The subject deserves careful study by social and economic workers interested in the proper feeding of our people. The League of Nations has recognized this problem and deplors the prejudice which exists widely against skim milk not only as a waste of food in itself, but because it results in a reduction of the total milk consumption. They point out, what is well known, that the nutritive value of skim milk is not impaired as far as the mineral and protein contents are concerned, but only by the removal of the butter fat and the vitamin A which it contains. Skim milk, being much cheaper than whole milk, is within the reach of many low income families. Apparently the only other protest on record came from the Minister of Agriculture of Canada in 1936....."

Australian Import Ban      The market for American goods in Australia received another setback this week when additional restrictions in imports from non-British empire countries went into effect, says a Melbourne report to the Wall Street Journal. As announced by Prime Minister Menzies, the new restrictions mean shaving imports into Australia from non-sterling countries by approximately \$1,650,000. This, added to previous restrictions, curtails imports by approximately \$5,000,000. The restrictions range all the way from a total ban on certain items to a reduction of 25 percent to 50 percent in the amount which may be purchased from non-sterling countries as compared with last year.



Institute of Food Technologists      first  
Science (March 29) says that the meeting of the  
Institute of Food Technologists will be held in June.  
"The membership of the Institute," it reports, "includes  
chemists, bacteriologists, process engineers and others  
similarly trained or experienced in the manufacture, preservation and  
handling of food. Graduation from a college or a university with majors  
in at least two such sciences as chemistry, physics, biology, micro-  
biology and engineering in relation to food handling and processing is  
regarded as a desirable prerequisite for membership, but those having  
experience of at least three years in some type of technological work  
will be accepted; also distinguished students of food technology, whether  
or not they have had technical training, are eligible. Those who are  
active in special limited aspects of food technology and those scientific-  
ally trained for a career in the food industry are eligible for affiliate  
membership."

Paper-Board for Foods      Paper and paper-board made for use in the food  
packaging industries is a sanitary product of a high order.  
This is the conclusion of a paper in the American Journal  
of Public Health (March) by F. W. Tanner, University of Illinois, and Evan  
Weaton and C. O. Ball, American Can Company. "It is not only made from  
clean, sanitary, raw materials but results from a manufacturing procedure  
in which are several absolutely lethal steps; i.e., cooking, bleaching  
with chlorine, and hot drying rolls. Escherichia coli is not found in  
paper so made. Methods for bacteriological paper analysis are being de-  
veloped."

Wheat Germ as a Food      "The present widespread interest in the subject of  
reintroducing wheat germ into flour gives renewed im-  
portance to a treatise prepared several years ago by  
J. A. Le Clerc and L. H. Bailey of the Food Research Division of the  
(former) Bureau of Chemistry and Soils and recently publicized in a  
mimeographed circular," says an editor's note in Northwestern Miller  
(March 27). "The article was published in the Northwestern Miller and  
American Baker of September 2, 1931, in substantially the text of its  
present appearance (Wheat Germ As a Human Food). Dr. Le Clerc states  
that he knows of no important change that might be made other than  
elimination of the statement: 'In toasted form, in which condition  
Hertwig claims its keeping qualities are enhanced, it can be used as a  
component of self-rising flour.' The work of Hertwig has not been cor-  
roborated by Dr. Le Clerc's department. 'I would prefer not to advise  
anyone,' writes Dr. Le Clerc, 'to heat wheat germ above 140° F. Our  
experiments that have been conducted so far seem to indicate that when  
wheat germ is heated at the temperature of boiling water it will become  
rancid very quickly if exposed to light.'....."

Farm Security Photographs "Farm Security Administration photographs aren't the sort of pictures a person forgets easily," says Hartley E. Howe, author of "You Have Seen Their Pictures" in Survey Graphic (April). "The story behind these photographs is not widely known, but it's a good story, and important to politicians, sociologists, economists, who can find in the camera a highly useful tool. Important to people who want to record the world of today before it slips away into the world of yesterday. And above all, important to everyone who believes that democracy can succeed in a gigantic country like ours only when people are informed about the troubles of their fellow Americans and thus are impelled to do something to help them out. Farm Security photography is government photography. The government has been using the camera almost since the days of Daguerre: to record patent drawings, to report wars, to show stay-at-homes the Indians and scenery of the Far West. And more recently, federal agencies have used photographs to teach people better ways to meet problems connected with crops, mines and forests.....Four years have brought 25,000 photographs to FSA's files. They represent the cream of the crop, the survivors of a rigorous weeding out.....

"At present plans are being made to photograph various non-rural institutions which vitally affect the farmer: transportation, the great produce exchanges, the slaughter houses, the flour and textile mills, the multitude of middlemen, and the retail outlets. And more pictures are being taken of the upper two thirds of the farm population in order to have a standard of farm life with which to contrast the tragedy of the underprivileged.....Farm Security has gathered the finest collection of pictures of rural America in existence. It has brought home to millions the tragedy of our rural lower third. It has made a permanent impress on federal photographic methods. And it has vividly demonstrated the value of the camera as an instrument of government."

This issue of Survey Graphic also contains "New Steps to Save the Land" by Morris Llewellyn Cooke, president of the newly organized "Friends of the Land" (see Daily Digest for March 22 and 26).

Fluorescent Color Paints A new series of 12 light-emitting paints have just been announced. By ordinary light these colors have the appearance of ordinary colored lacquers, with perhaps an apparent fluorescent quality, but under the invisible glow of so-called "black light" (ultra-violet) the colors all come alive and glow in a fiery sort of beauty. The "black light," which is harmless, is generated in simple black bulbs which may now be purchased for as low as \$2 each. The lacquer-enamels have numerous decorative uses. They are being applied in theaters for striking effects, in murals in restaurants and other public buildings, and may indeed find use in carrying out design schemes in homes. (Scientific American, April.)



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Vol. LXXVII, No. 3

Section 1

April 3, 1940

## REORGANIZATION

### PLAN ANNOUNCED

The creation of a fiscal service consolidating the financing and other fiscal functions of the Treasury Department under a single office was proposed by President Roosevelt yesterday in another government reorganization plan, says a report in the New York Times. Into the new Fiscal Service, the President proposed to put the office of the Treasurer of the United States, the office of Commissioner of Accounts and Deposits, and the Public Debt Service. Within the Interior Department, he proposed to consolidate the activities of the Bureau of Fisheries and the Bureau of Biological Survey.

The plan provided for the creation in the Department of Agriculture of a Surplus Marketing Administration from a combination of the present Division of Marketing and Marketing Agreements and the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation. This move would give separate bureau recognition to the department's food stamp program.

## FCA STATUS, JONES BILL

A return of the Farm Credit Administration to its previous status as an independent agency was urged yesterday upon Senate and House committees, studying farm lending legislation, by two of the large agricultural organizations, says a report in the New York Times.

Edward A. O'Neal, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, asked the Senate Agriculture Committee to recommend passage of a bill setting up the FCA as an independent agency. Mr. O'Neal said he felt that Secretary Wallace had done "an excellent job" of administration, but that the agency was placed under the "danger of recurring changes which might conceivably result every four years from changes in the national administration," whereas agricultural interests demanded continuity of policy and administration.

Louis J. Taber, master of the National Grange, denounced the Jones farm credit reorganization bill as "undemocratic, unsound and destructive of local initiative and control." Daniel W. Bell, Under Secretary of the Treasury, told the House Committee that the Jones bill might result in further burdens on the Treasury.

## B. E. & P. Q. EXHIBITION

Insects, both good and bad, will be on display all this month in the patio of the Administration Building. The Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine has prepared an exhibit of some of the outstanding individuals of the more than 750,000 known kinds of insects in the world.



Grants for Transients                    "An amendment to the Social Security Act, proposed by Congressman Voorhis of California, would add a new title providing for 'Grants to States for Aid to Transients,'" says Social Service Review (March). "This proposed amendment will make possible grants-in-aid to assist states 'to furnish financial assistance or other assistance, including but not limited to medical, dental, and mental aid .... to needy transients.'.....The National Child Labor Committee is wisely and vigorously supporting the transient-aid bill because the Committee is convinced that child labor among migratory children cannot be dealt with as an isolated evil but must be regarded as an integral part of a much larger problem.....The Committee has recently called attention to the fact that for more than twenty-five years children who 'follow the crops' have been a matter of concern.....While recognizing that relief is not a permanent solution, and that measures to remove conditions that give rise to migrancy are necessary, as well as efforts to improve employment conditions, housing, child labor and school-attendance standards for migratory families, the National Child Labor Committee is right in believing that federal aid to the states for transients is a very important step toward improving some of 'the wretched conditions of poverty and ill-health under which migratory workers and their children now suffer.' The federal government is the only logical agency for aiding needy migrants. The problem is clearly interstate in character."

Truck Scales                    "Country grain dealers are installing scales and legs of larger capacity in hopes that they will be able to speed up all handling operations," says Grain & Feed Journals (March 27). "Forty years ago no farmer objected to waiting several hours to unload his horse drawn wagon, but today all are anxious to dump their big truckload and get back home, so the country elevator operators are forced to speed up and they are glad to do it so they can have more time for office work. The increase in size of grain laden trucks has made obsolete the old-time wagon scale of small capacity and while many have been content to install twenty ton truck scales some are now insisting on having thirty-ton truck scales so that the largest trucks can readily be weighed with accuracy and expedition."

"West Coast Inquiry"                    "Testimony before the La Follette Committee in California not only threw the searchlight on civil liberties; it illuminated the United States farm problem," says a note in Survey Graphic (April). "The committee's report, weighing the evidence and recommending solutions, has not yet been completed. Meanwhile our West Coast observer (Katharine Douglas), drawing upon the published record of the hearings and upon firsthand studies of industrialized agriculture, discusses the relation of farm tenure to the native values of the American farm ideal (in the article 'West Coast Inquiry')."

#### Motor Cargo Insurance

Ten major mutual fire insurance companies with combined assets of more than \$45,000,000 have announced the formation of a syndicate which will insure motor truck cargoes throughout the United States for long-haul truckmen who can qualify as superior risks, says a Chicago report in the Wall Street Journal. The organization, first of its kind in this field, began operations recently from Washington. The syndicate will be known as the mutual cargo pool. It is designed to meet the widened demand for motor cargo insurance which has grown out of recent Interstate Commerce Commission regulations requiring that interstate truckers protect by insurance cargoes entrusted to them, and out of the increasing insistence of state regulatory bodies that intra-state shipments be similarly protected. In the past insuring long-haul truck cargoes has been regarded by underwriters as a hazardous business, with large and concentrated values subject to unusual perils ranging from hijacking to driver fatigue, and many truckers have found securing insurance coverage difficult.

#### Prepared Poultry

New ways of handling frozen packs of poultry are creating new profits for the Washington Co-Operative Egg and Poultry Association, an organization of 24,000 State of Washington poultrymen. Getting away from "just frozen poultry" was started in 1937, and since that time an increasingly large amount of fowl has been handled. Of the 3,246,500 pounds of poultry received by the association headquarters during 1938, a large proportion was utilized for "pan-prepared broilers" and "pot-prepared hens," two products which were developed when it was found that ordinary packs of frozen poultry have small appeal. The popularity of these items has led to another form of frozen poultry known as the "full drawn" pack. (Refrigerating Engineering, April.)

#### Dusting Machine

A machine which uses new principles in the application of dusts to turfs has been designed and will appear on the market this spring, says Louis Pyenson, State Institute of Agriculture, Farmingdale, L.I., in the Journal of Economic Entomology (February). "This machine drives dust evenly into the turf," he says, "and draws back into the air stream by means of a vacuum return some of the waste dust. By using these new principles of application economic control of hairy chinch bugs may be obtained with one-third the amount of 1 percent rotenone dust formerly recommended. Light, even applications of lead arsenate dust to turf for white grub and sod-webworm control are also made practical through the use of this newly designed machine."

#### Vitamins

The leading article in May Science Digest is "What's All This About Vitamins?" a condensation of various articles on vitamins in the 1939 Yearbook, Food and Life.



Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry reported  
April 1 without amendment S. 3530, to prohibit the exportation  
of tobacco seed and plants, except for experimental pur-  
poses.

House Passed the following forestry bills: H. R. 1790, to  
April 1 authorize additions to the Sequoia National Forest, Calif.;  
H. R. 8476, to adjust the boundaries of the Cedar Breaks  
National Monument and the Dixie National Forest, Utah; H. R. 7833, to  
set aside certain lands in the Chippewa National Forest for the Minnesota  
Chippewa Tribe; H. R. 8356, to exchange lands adjacent to the San Juan  
National Forest and the Rio Grande National Forest, Colo.

Committee on Indian Affairs reported with amendment H. R. 8937, to  
authorize an appropriation for the relief of needy American Indians  
through utilization of surplus agricultural and other commodities. (H.  
Rept. 1903.)

(From the Office of Budget and Finance.)

One-Pie "The Early Cheyenne pumpkin is just the right size  
Pumpkin to make one pie," says C. Bolles in Country Gentleman  
(April). "The flavor and quality are fully equal to  
older varieties plus a deeper yellow flesh color. As the name would  
indicate, this is a product of the Cheyenne Horticultural Field Station,  
Wyoming, and was developed from a New England pie selection. Since it  
has shown itself to be from two to three weeks earlier than its parent,  
the Early Cheyenne should make a hit with the housewife of the Northern  
States, where the seasons are short. What the newcomer, offered to the  
trade for the first time this season, lacks in individual size it makes  
up in heavy bearing, for where the common pie pumpkin grew but 5.8 mature  
fruits the Early Cheyenne had 9.3 fruits per vine."

Trends in Flexible, transparent bags for wet goods ranging  
Packages from pickles to cylinder oil were the highlights of the  
recent annual packaging, packing and shipping exposition  
of the American Management Association, says Business Week (March 30).  
These liquid-proof bags are made of sheet rubber hydrochloride. Process  
cheese manufacturers are shielding their products against oxidation and  
mold with this material. Coffee roasters, cosmetic compounders, etc.,  
also are using it. Glass manufacturers are relying for their hold on  
the package market on new light-weight, high-strength containers which  
they have developed. The demands of the food, drug and cosmetic act  
for better descriptive labeling have caused improvement in package de-  
sign, says Business Week.

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Vol. LXXVII, No. 4

Section 1

April 4, 1940

## COTTON STAMPS FOR MEMPHIS

Secretary Wallace selected Memphis yesterday as the first city in which to try the cotton stamp program to supply surplus cotton goods to needy families through normal trade channels in the same way that surplus foodstuffs are going to relief families under the food stamp plan. In designating the Tennessee city and the rest of Shelby County as the first experimental area under the plan, the Secretary said that state, county and city officials had pledged complete cooperation with the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation, as had bankers and retail dry goods merchants who will be directly concerned with administration of the scheme.

Fourteen to fifteen thousand families are estimated to be eligible to benefits from the new program. Eligible families will be able to buy green stamps within minimum and maximum limits, and to receive free \$1 worth of brown, or surplus cotton, stamps for each \$1 of green stamps bought. Brown stamps will be given free to any families certified as being unable to buy green stamps. (New York Times.)

## CREDIT BILL HEARINGS

The American Farm Bureau Federation yesterday expressed emphatic opposition to some major provisions of the Jones farm credit bill, says a report by a Washington Post staff writer. R. E. Short, president of the Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation and a director of the national federation, appeared before the House Agriculture Committee to outline the organization's views.

The federation, Short testified, fears that the pending legislation would increase the cost to the government of operating the farm credit system and, to that extent, jeopardize other phases of the federal agricultural program. The only permanent solution of the farm credit problem is attainment of "fair prices and fair income" for farmers, bringing agriculture into a parity position and increasing "the debt paying ability of farmers," he asserted.

## RIVERS AND HARBORS BILL

"A Senate appropriations subcommittee, despite President Roosevelt's admonition against such increases, yesterday added \$25,000,000 for rivers and harbors and flood control projects to raise the total in the pending War Department civil functions measure \$70,000,000 above the House-approved figure and about \$53,000,000 above Bureau of the Budget estimates," reports Henry N. Dorris in the New York Times.



California Commission      California has made an excellent start in a program to eliminate trade barriers and promote interstate cooperation, W. B. Parker, state director of agriculture, said recently, according to a report in the Los Angeles Times. The California Commission on Interstate Cooperation, headed by Mr. Parker, is composed of five Senators, five Assemblymen and five directors of State departments. "From the special viewpoint of agriculture, trade barriers are particularly significant," Mr. Parker said. "For example, the wide and discriminatory variation in taxes applied to commercial vehicles, on such important California products as wine and on nursery products, just to mention a few items, is of tremendous importance to California agriculture....." (PPS 267.)

Ecological Abstracts      "Those engaged in research in medicine, public health, ecology, agriculture, forestry, botany or zoology, geography, and other fields, will welcome the announcement that Biological Abstracts is undertaking a more complete abstracting and segregation of the current research literature in bioclimatology and biometeorology," says the Australian Journal of Science (February 21). "The section 'Bioclimatology-Biometeorology' will appear within the section 'Ecology' in Biological Abstracts.....The increasing interest in climatic and meteorological factors in their relation to biology, medicine, and agriculture is one of the significant trends of modern science. Ecologists have long appreciated the importance of temperature, humidity, radiation, barometric pressure, wind movement, and meteorological factors generally, as important factors in controlling the distribution and abundance of animals and plants. Foresters, horticulturists, and entomologists have likewise been concerned with the interrelationships of climatic and meteorological factors to the organisms with which they work. The developments of air-conditioning and aviation have lately brought other important research groups into the field, resulting in an increasing amount of research....."

Farm Fire Prevention      "Modern factories are built of steel and concrete and are covered with 'no smoking' signs," says an editorial in the Kentucky Farmer's Home Journal (April). "How about your wooden barn with straw on the floor, dry dust, dry wooden partitions, and a wood floored loft loaded down with combustible hay? Add this to a good strong April wind whipping around the corners and you have a perfect setting for a terrible fire and the agonized screams of your dependable animals burning to death. Seldom a day goes by but news of a farm fire disaster is heard. Yet, seldom do we hear of factory fires any more, except in explosives factories, etc. Smokers in your barn carry matches. Matches are explosives. An old-time match dropped carelessly in your barn--contacting a playful mouse--suddenly comes to life and spells death and destruction. It might be a fine plan to put 'no smoking' signs on and inside inflammable farm buildings. It is cheap insurance....."



**Films on  
Fertilizer**

"The American Potash Institute, Inc., is announcing that its colored motion picture films are now being made available for free loan to agricultural colleges and experiment stations, county agricultural agents, vocational teachers, and responsible farm organizations and members of the fertilizer trade," says an editorial in Better Crops With Plant Food (March). "The films are authoritative in character, being taken in most part in cooperation with official agricultural sources and depicting official experimental work. Based on comment at preliminary showings, these films should be of great service in disseminating the more recent observations and conclusions on the profitable use of fertilizers, particularly potash. While apparently sectionalized, most of the pictures are so broad in subject and application that they will be of interest and value in other regions."

**Workdays  
on Farms**

"The farm workday stays at 10 to 12 hours a day, in spite of the lure of radio, automobile, and movies, and the labor-saving of windmills, tractors, and electricity," says an editorial in the Des Moines Tribune. "Many of the differences between town and country have been fading over the last generation or two, but the farm has not shared so much in the national movement toward shorter hours. This may be just a temporary lag, or it may persist for a long time to come. Farm operators are working for themselves, and tend to prefer long hours to smaller returns. And except in a few regions, hired labor plays only a small part and tends to take its cue from the operators. Part of the labor saved by use of machinery goes to pay for the machinery and other new wants, part of it is lost through low farm prices, and part of it goes to buy or rent more land....." (PPS 264.)

**Rural  
Music**

A three-year program of rural music and dramatics, designed to be of service to the State of New York and to serve as a model to other States, will be started by Cornell University this spring with the aid of a grant of \$20,000 from the Rockefeller Foundation, says an Ithaca report in the New York Times. The project is a cooperative venture of three colleges of the university-- agriculture, home economics, and arts and sciences-- and the Extension Service of the State Colleges. For fifteen years Cornell has been contributing to the musical development of rural communities, largely through the organization of special music programs for the Annual Farm and Home Week, and through work with 4-H Clubs and similar groups. A growing demand from the rural communities for active guidance of local programs, for special help to local music leaders, for organization of festivals, etc., inspired the Rockefeller Foundation grant.

New Uses for Phenothiazine      A substance that is toxic to insects and of low toxicity to warm-blooded animals, including man, long has been the goal of Department scientists. Six years ago they found a promising substance in phenothiazine, the parent of many important dyes, which is prepared from diphenylamine, a coal tar derivative, and sulphur. Chemically, it is related to sulphanilamide. The original piece of research, made by L. E. Smith in the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, showed the chemical possesses value as an insect killer. This led to other important and practical uses for phenothiazine. In the opinion of Department scientists, it is one of the most versatile chemical substances brought to light in recent years.

As soon as manufacturers make suitable application to the Secretary of Agriculture, phenothiazine will be released as a medicine for treating certain worm infestations of sheep, swine, and horses, which heretofore have resisted medication. Besides this immediate use phenothiazine has shown promise as a medication for certain infections of the urinary tract; as an insecticide; as a fungicide; and as a control of larva of horn flies and mosquitoes. Its use also led to a treatment for screw worms affecting cattle.

Maggot Research      Following the medical discovery of the remarkable effectiveness of sterile blowfly maggots in healing stubborn wounds in human beings, Dr. William Robinson of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine has continued investigations of the way maggots bring about such satisfactory results. He now finds that maggots produce a common and inexpensive chemical, ammonium bicarbonate, and that this compound stimulates healing similar to the healing by the maggots themselves.

Reporting to the medical profession through the American Journal of Surgery, Doctor Robinson makes his third announcement of healing substances produced by the maggots. In 1935 he discovered that allantoin, which occurs in the secretions of maggots, heals wounds rapidly. The following year he found that urea, a simpler chemical, acted similarly. Ammonium bicarbonate is a still simpler chemical compound and is formed naturally from urea by the action of an enzyme called urease. After testing the ammonium bicarbonate solution on animals, Doctor Robinson obtained the cooperation of physicians and surgeons, some of whom had previously used allantoin and urea. His report in the Journal of Surgery is largely a summary of their professional experience in treating infected wounds that did not yield to other methods. All three of the healing products Doctor Robinson has discovered in maggot secretions are also made synthetically by chemical means.

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# DAILY DIGEST

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Vol. LXXVII, No. 5

Section 1

April 5, 1940

## RESEARCH ON SOIL

### BACTERIOLOGY

"Evidence that the bacteria present in the soil in countless varieties possess an adaptive mechanism which enables them to develop powerful specific chemicals against the bacterial enemies of man, promising to open up an inexhaustible treasurehouse of nature containing a specific antidote against any specific hostile microbe, was presented yesterday before the annual congress of the American College of Physicians by Dr. Rene J. Dubos of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research," says William L. Laurence in the New York Times.

"Dr. Dubos was presented with the John Phillips memorial award for 1940, one of the highest honors in medicine, for his work in the isolation from soil bacteria of powerful chemicals against pneumonia, streptococci, staphylococci, and other deadly germs of the large group of microbes belonging to the so-called gram-positive family. Dr. Dubos, a native of France, is a soil bacteriologist...His investigations, according to the official citation, 'have established a new principle of great importance in the study of the chemistry of living cells and of chemotherapeutic substances'..."

## JONES BILL HEARINGS

"Farm organizations fighting the Jones farm credit bill are 'innocent tools of the banking and insurance interests,' Representative Pierce of Oregon charged yesterday," says Hedley Donovan, Washington Post staff writer. "Pierce, in a session of the House Agriculture Committee, asserted that insurance companies resist liberalization of federal farm loan policy in order to protect a 'fertile field' for investment of their funds..."

## OUTLOOK IN WOOL INDUSTRY

Arthur Besse, president of the National Association of Wool Manufacturers, said yesterday he believed that the "turning point" in operations had been reached and that there soon would be a demand for goods causing "a firming of the wool market." "This present year has not started auspiciously because of an intensified struggle to keep looms operating at a time when goods obviously were not needed," he told the seventy-fifth annual meeting of the organization in Boston. "However, it is my opinion that we have reached the turning point and that it should now be possible to do a reasonably satisfactory business for the fall season." (A.P.)

Migratory                      The government is helping to solve the migratory  
Farm Labor                    farm labor problem in California and Arizona, says  
                                 editorial opinion in the Davenport Democrat. "Some folks  
out that way," the editorial says in part, "are criticizing the federal  
authorities for doing so much. Grower spokesmen say: 'Why spend all  
that money here? Why doesn't the government do something in Oklahoma,  
Arkansas and Texas, where the migrants come from?' The truth is that  
the government does a great deal in those States, such as in making  
rehabilitation loans designed to give potential migrants a new start  
on the land in their home communities. In the last five months of  
1939, the government granted 15,085 such loans in Arkansas, Oklahoma  
and Texas -- against 653 in California.

"Another index is found in what the government bookkeepers call  
'active cases.' These are government loans to farmers on the land on  
which payment is being made or there is a good chance of payment being  
made. At the end of 1939 there were 5,080 such 'active cases' in  
Arizona and California against 66,546 in Oklahoma and Texas....Whatever  
may be said of the problem and the fidelity or exaggeration with which  
it has been pictured, it is plain that it is not being ignored by the  
government." (PPS 272.)

Farm Loan                      "In spring, the annual revival of interest in  
Policies                      country life is to be expected," says an editorial in  
                                 the Detroit News. "Many farm properties will change hands  
and sales at auction will find bidders among those planning a career in  
agriculture. Most of these transactions involve borrowing money. In  
this, the services of the Federal land banks and the Farm Credit Admin-  
istration are available. The land banks have been a big factor in the  
success of national farm loan associations. They have helped farmers to  
shape their debts for long term easy payments and have saved borrowers  
hundreds of millions of dollars in interest.

"It is a wise change of policy that a little less zeal is displayed  
in touting these services by public authority. The Government through  
various agencies still is helping farmers to get favorable financing,  
but it must be remembered that there are principles of banking that can-  
not be defied unless loans are to be mere subsidies. If borrowing is  
made too easy, there is a danger that many may borrow who cannot prosper  
and repay....." (PPS 270.)

Cotton Loan                    Commodity Credit Corporation has announced that the  
Maturity                      maturity of its loans on 1938 crop cotton has been ex-  
                                 tended one year to July 31, 1941. Up to March 26, 1940,  
repayments of \$81,923,000 had been made on 1,777,000 bales of 1938 crop  
cotton, leaving a balance outstanding of \$127,838,000 on 2,705,000 bales  
of 1938 loan cotton.



**N.C. Cotton Grading** North Carolina's bonded warehouses operating under the supervision of the State Department of Agriculture have grown from 54 in 1926 to 112 today with storage capacity increasing more than 120 percent, says the Raleigh News & Observer. That is the report of A. B. Fairley, chief of the department's warehouse division, who said that "storage facilities and cotton grading services offered the farmers are greater now than at any time in the State's history. With the erection of a new cotton grading and classing building with the aid of Federal funds, North Carolina now offers cotton producers grading assistance commensurate with any state in the Nation. Last season, federal-state licensed classers graded more than 50,000 bales and preparations are already being made for an expansion of the grading program." (PPS 276.)

**Negro Migration to Cities** Agriculture is becoming one of the most highly competitive of all industries, and its consequent displacement of many farm laborers, tenants, sharecroppers and small farm owners is driving Negro farm families to the city, W. H. Mezler, assistant sociologist, Arkansas College of Agriculture, said recently, according to a report in the Arkansas Gazette. All too often these Negroes are being driven to places on the relief rolls, he asserted.

"The task of fitting these Negroes into our economic structure is one that must be faced by white and Negroes together," he said. "White people in the South cannot prosper to any large extent unless the Negro has economic opportunity, income and purchasing power so that he can play his normal part in the exchange of goods and services. The South can make no great economic headway until the economic position of the Negro is improved." (PPS 274.)

**Radio Script Exchange** A new national depository and library of scientific aids to education, the Educational Radio Script Exchange, which is serving a rapidly growing development of local school and civic groups actively interested in educational radio, has published its first complete printed list of services for furthering the cause of American education, says a report in the New York Times. The Script Exchange, created by the Federal Radio Education Committee in October 1936, to serve as a clearing house for educational radio scripts and other information, lists in its new publication the four major services of the exchange. These are: Radio Scripts, Production Aids, Information and Idea Exchange, and Recordings.

**Dividends from Forests** Six hundred and sixty seven counties, more than one-fifth of the 3,070 in the United States, are entitled to share this year in the distribution of 25 percent of the gross receipts from operation of the 196 National Forests and Purchase Units, the Forest Service has announced.



Sulfathiazole            "A new chemical named sulfathiazole, the latest of  
Combats                the sulfanilamide group, which promises to become the  
Infection                greatest weapon against a host of deadly bacterial infec-  
                              tions for which no effective measures existed until now,  
was described recently before the annual congress of the American Col-  
lege of Physicians," says William L. Laurence, in the New York Times.  
"Sulfathiazole is the offspring of a chemical marriage between sulfan-  
ilamide and one-half of the molecule of vitamin B-1.....The strange  
fact that the combination of the sulfanilamide with parts of the mole-  
cule of two of the vitamin B group has yielded two highly effective  
drugs (the other is sulfapyridine) against a group of specific bacterial  
diseases, it was stated, has given biochemists reasons for expecting  
that similar combinations of sulfanilamide with other vitamins, or parts  
of vitamins, may bring forth a host of other new important drugs to com-  
bat other ills of man. It is expected that chemists in many laboratories  
will lose no time in investigating these possibilities.

"Sulfathiazole is not available yet for general medical use, as the  
Food and Drug Administration requires that any new drug be tested experi-  
mentally by experts, after laboratory trials on animals, before use of it  
is permitted to the medical profession in general. The new drug, however,  
has been in use on an experimental basis in the last few months at more  
than forty of this country's medical institutions, including the Mayo  
Clinic, Johns Hopkins, Yale, Harvard, Columbia, Pennsylvania and other  
leading medical schools, as well as at a number of the large hospitals  
in New York and other cities. In all, it was learned, 1,600 human  
patients had received the new drug, in a large group of diseases caused  
by bacterial infection....."

Wallace on                Secretary Wallace informed a House Ways and Means  
Patman Bill                subcommittee this week that the Department of Agriculture  
                              opposes the Patman bill to levy heavy taxes on chain  
stores. Secretary Wallace stated his opposition in a letter in reply to  
a request from Committee Chairman Robert Doughton. The bill would "dis-  
courage and prevent" efficient methods of marketing and distribution,  
Mr. Wallace wrote, instead of promoting them as "sound public policy  
requires." The Secretary said that State taxes on chain stores already  
are so high that "it seems obvious that the larger interstate chain  
system would be driven out of business." Probably, he added, many of  
the smaller chains would also find it impossible to operate under these  
additional taxes. Mr. Wallace said the Administration has approved his  
statement through the Bureau of the Budget. (United Press.)

Wood Waste                A steel industry on the Northwest Coast may be  
Utilization                established as a result of a process that has been per-  
                              fected by Dr. Stevan Ruzicka, says the News Bulletin of  
the National Farm Chemurgic Council (March 25). This new process is  
especially fitted for development in the Northwest because it substitutes  
for coke made from coal a processed charcoal made from wood waste. Of  
such waste--sawdust, tree tops and stumps--the Northwest has perhaps  
50,000,000 tons a year.



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Section 1

April 8, 1940

## WEather 1212

### WASHINGTON

Persons can now dial WEather 1212 in Washington and receive the latest weather information by automatic transcription. Washington is the fifth city in the country to install the new weather forecast service. Except during the first few days, when the curious public is expected to dial the number repeatedly "just to hear the thing talk," phone officials say there is little danger of a "jam." Provisions have been made so that 160 persons in all parts of the city can dial at once. A maximum of 4,000 automatic weather calls an hour is possible. If you keep listening to the voice over and over "just for amusement," you'll find the telephone technicians have beaten you to the game by installing a device that will cause the voice to fade out automatically after three minutes on the same line. (Washington Post.)

## RURAL SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

"Of all the schools in the Nation the southern rural schools are improving most rapidly," Edwin R. Embree, president of the Julius Rosenwald Fund, said this week end before the Southern Sociological Society conference. Mr. Embree added: "The South's schools would be improving even more rapidly if the South had the money. The answer to that is a national equalization bill. A bill has been pending before Congress for a year. Some day it will be passed, and as soon as some real money comes in, the rural schools will become first-rate institutions." Such a national equalization fund for education would provide for payments to each state of sums in proportion to education needs. (A.P.)

## EXHIBIT

An exhibit of the "Flowers of the Americas" has opened at the Pan American Building (Washington) as a part of the fiftieth anniversary celebration of the Pan American Union. Orchids will play a big role in the exhibit, which will probably last this week.

## RETIREMENT CONTRIBUTION

Federal workers are facing a renewed fight over how much they should pay for their retirement benefits, says the Federal Diary of the Washington Post. They are under notice by Congressional leaders that their present 3 1/2 percent contributions to the retirement fund must be increased if the system is not to be placed under the Social Security Board.



Nutrition  
Services

"The extent to which the services of the nutritionist are available is all too limited," says Arlien Johnson, University of Southern California, in a paper in the Journal of the American Dietetic Association (April). "Encouragement was given to this service by the Emergency Relief Administration in 1934-35," she says, "when an adviser on food requirements was added to its staff and state relief administrations were urged to follow suit. In 1935 a questionnaire sent to member associations of the Family Welfare Association of America revealed that 63 home economists were employed by 32 of the 160 private family welfare agencies which replied. In addition it was estimated there were at least 200 home economists employed in public welfare and health departments throughout the country. In many localities welfare departments work closely with some of the 2300 women trained in home economics who are employed in the Cooperative Extension Service of the United States Department of Agriculture. Not to be omitted as sources of borrowed services are the state college and state university departments of home economics which often give generously of their time and knowledge.

"Various bureaus and offices of the federal government have recognized the place of the nutritionist for consultation service. The house-keeping aid projects under the WPA have often been under the supervision of home economists; and the Farm Security Administration has employed home economists to the exclusion of social workers in the rural relief and rehabilitation program. If we exclude the two wholly federal programs, the WPA and the Farm Security Administration, however, it is evident there are only a few hundred nutrition specialists employed by state and local welfare agencies which are administering assistance to millions of dependent people....."

Pine in  
Texas

"It has taken farmers in East Texas a long time to perceive the fact that the common field pine, while yet a sapling, has market value," says the San Antonio Express. "However under persistent tutoring by Texas Forest Service, county agricultural agents and spokesmen for the woodpulp industries, farmers now are catching on. They are paying some heed to preserving, and even to planting and cultivating, the once-despised pine, that would flourish on cotton patches allowed to lay out a few years because no longer profitable for crop-growing....." (PPS 279.)

Trade Bill  
Passed

The Senate adopted late Friday, by a vote of 42 to 37, the resolution to extend the President's power to negotiate reciprocal foreign-trade agreements for three years, until June 12, 1943. Since the Senate rejected all amendments which were offered, the measure, already passed by the House, goes to the White House for signature. (Press.)



Honey Museum,                "Dr. L. M. Gates started a beekeeping museum at the  
News Letter                Massachusetts College of Agriculture and made substantial  
                                 progress in securing suitable material," says an editorial  
in the American Bee Journal (April). "Since he severed his connection  
with that institution, the museum has been given but little attention.  
At present the one museum of beekeeping receiving recognition worth while  
is at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York. It is not suitably equipped  
as yet, or provided with sufficient exhibit space; but if public interest  
develops, these should come in due time. Many a worthy effort has been  
permitted to die for lack of interest on the part of those it was in-  
tended to benefit....."

A note on the semi-monthly news letter of the Department, prepared  
by Harold J. Clay of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, says that  
"no other source of periodical information in the beekeeping industry is  
more important to beekeepers than the semi-monthly news letter of the  
Department of Agriculture. The fine thing about this publication is that  
it is free to beekeepers on request, and gives full information about  
markets, prices, and available honey in the United States; also frequent  
statistics on importations and exportations of honey, beeswax and other  
matters of general interest to beekeepers."

Tennessee Soil                "In a few brief years, with the inspiration of the  
Conservation                AAA program, Tennessee farmers have progressed to an  
                                 active interest in maintaining and upbuilding the land--  
an attitude contrasting sharply with the seemingly fatalistic indiffer-  
ence to this need which, in many sections, formerly prevailed," says an  
editorial in Nashville Tennessean.

"And it is a genuine revival of interest in the soil, not, as some  
would have it, a mere show of energy called out by government subsidy.  
The soil building payments do not cover the cost of the operations that  
earn them. They do make it possible for many a farmer to help his soil  
in ways he could not without the payments afford, and the sum total of  
these improvements will be to increase the value of the greatest single  
asset of the commonwealth--the productivity of the earth." (PPS 281.)

Government                "The Civil Service Commission has repeatedly urged  
Retirement                changes in the laws governing the retirement ages of  
                                 Federal employees," says an editorial in the Washington  
Post (April 6). "In its current annual report it discusses the subject  
again, presenting sound arguments for modification of inflexible age  
limits, especially in the postal service and skilled trades where em-  
ployees are compulsorily retired at 62 and 65 years of age. The com-  
mission points out that many of these workers are thoroughly competent  
and some are 'at or near their maximum usefulness to the Government'.....

"Of course, given a uniform compulsory retiring age of 70, special  
provision would have to be made for earlier retirement of employees who  
by reason of ill-health or premature failures of powers had ceased to be

useful. That could be done, as the commission suggests, through setting an optional retirement age of 60 years for those with 30 years service, and 62 years for persons with 15 years of service.....The greatest danger, perhaps, would lie in a tendency to deal too leniently with individuals who have passed the period of usefulness before reaching the compulsory retirement age. But such employees could usually be induced to exercise their optional pension rights."

Supply of Lard                      Calling lard "the problem child of the swine industry," H. H. Kildee, Dean of Agriculture at Iowa State College, is author of an article on this subject, in Successful Farming (April). Discussing the production side of the problem, he says: "A great many farmers and agricultural leaders believe that the Cornbelt should go more into dairying, beef cattle, and sheep--and away from hogs. They believe that we cannot permanently maintain a hog industry as large as that of the early 1930's on a profitable basis. They see many years of hardship in the cotton South (with more hog-raising in that area) and no hope for increased hog-product exports. So, they ask, why not face the facts and begin adjusting the hog business to take care of this decrease in demand?

"Another argument for this point of view is the increased growing of hay and pasture crops in the Midwest. Emphasis on soil conservation through the AAA and other programs is undoubtedly increasing forage supplies. Studies at Iowa State College, however, show that in recent years Cornbelt farmers have not decreased their hog production when they increased production of forage crops. This might change, of course, in the future. If hog prices were forced down in relation to other livestock and livestock product prices by the lard surplus, then farmers would gradually shift to other uses of feed. During the 1920's the Cornbelt stepped up its production of butterfat greatly and did not increase hog-production because market prices favored dairying during most of that period of adjustment....."

National Forest Pack Trip                      In "Escape From 1940," the leading article in American Forests (April) Helena Huntington Smith describes a pack trip through the Teton, Shoshone and Washakie National Forests in Northwest Wyoming. The photographs are by the Forest Service and J. D. LeCron, Office of the Secretary. "It isn't hard to go on a pack trip," the author says in part, "At any number of strategic points along the edge of the mountains guides and outfitters stand ready to take the traveler in, and the railroads will supply information for a starter.

"The usual rate of \$12 to \$15 a day looks high, but is not so bad in view of the fact that it covers food, lodging, transportation and the horses. As for extras, there aren't any, since there is no place where you could spend a nickel even if you wanted to. The American Forestry Association of Washington, D. C., organizes a half dozen or more trips a year which anyone may join, into the stupendous wild regions of Montana, Idaho, Colorado, Wyoming, New Mexico and California, at a non-profit rate of around \$10 a day."



# DAILY DIGEST

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Vol. LXXVII, No. 7

Section 1

April 9, 1940

## FOREIGN TRADE DURING WAR

United States exports and imports increased in the first six months of the war, not only compared with the corresponding period of last year, but with the period in 1937-38. A report of the Commerce Department in the war months ended February 25 shows shipments from the United States 33 percent greater in value than for the period ended on February 28, 1939, and 8 percent greater than in the comparable period two years ago. The corresponding rise in imports into the United States in the 6-month period ended February 29 was 27 percent over a year ago and 7 percent over two years ago.

The greatest increase has been in exports to Canada and South America, which have each increased approximately 47 percent. Shipments to Asia were up 33 percent and to Europe 27 percent. There were important shifts in the character of United States export trade, including substantial gains in cotton and chemicals, and declines in tobacco, grains and fruits. In import trade, there were substantial increases in crude and semi-manufactured materials. (New York Times.)

## "PARADE OF INVENTIONS"

The Commerce Department has a feature attraction in its "Parade of Inventions." Offered as a highlight in the United States Patent Law Sesquicentennial, the parade fills the lobby and auditorium. It stays on through this week and Sunday. (Washington Post.)

## POTOMAC RIVER

The Potomac River and its tributaries began to rise yesterday under the impetus of a 2-inch rainfall, but flood experts declared serious overflow unlikely. The U.S. Geological Survey ordered observers at Riverdale, Md., to make hourly checks of the level of the northeast branch of the Anacostia River, but emphasized that it is as much concerned about the record it is making for a study by Army engineers as it is by rise in the stream. (Washington Post.)

## EXCHANGE OF COTTON

The Commodity Credit Corporation announced yesterday that it had accepted proposals from 34 cotton firms to exchange 37,210 bales of low-grade, short-staple Government owned cotton for high-grade, long-staple privately owned cotton under the cotton exchange program announced in January. With previous acceptances by the corporation the total amount of government owned cotton is to be exchanged under the program now amounts to 160,595 bales.

Land Renting                      "The program of Social Adjustments Inc., for renting  
Organization      repossessed, idle land in California to selected families  
                         among the migrant farmers will move several steps forward  
soon when Bank of America, with its landowning affiliate, California  
Lands, Inc., will announce participation in the enterprise," says Busi-  
ness Week (April 6). "Two other key banks already have indicated readi-  
ness to cooperate -- the Security First-National Bank of Los Angeles,  
second largest bank in the state, and the Capitol National Bank of  
Sacramento. Standard Oil Company of California is considering partici-  
pation.....Social Adjustments, Inc., a non-profit corporation, will ad-  
minister rental of the land, an acre to a family. Renters pay about  
60 cents a week to cover interest and taxes. If they haven't the cash  
for the first month's rent, they agree to 'work it out' by digging a  
cesspool on the land. Social Adjustments, Inc., supplies garden tools  
and seeds. After five years, if the renter wants to buy his land, he  
starts paying instalments on a purchase price equal to its mortgage  
value at the time he settled on it...."

This issue of Business Week contains two other articles: "The  
Shelterbelt Comes True," a description of the Prairie States Forestry  
project of the Forest Service; and "Vitamins Get a Book of Rules,"  
"FDA", it says, "prepares to regulate them from A to G, with some pro-  
visions that will cut into profits, but big names in industry concede  
need for safeguards."

Fruit Juice                      Research shows that the proper temperature at which  
Preservation      canned or bottle fruit juices should be heat sterilized  
                         is lower than that generally used, says a note in Food  
Industries (April), commenting on an article on pasteurizing by C. S.  
Pederson, New York Experiment Station (Geneva), and E. A. Beavens,  
Bureau of Agricultural Chemistry and Engineering (at Geneva). "Juices  
prepared from fruits raised in northeastern United States," say the  
concluding paragraphs, "usually quite acid, may be effectively preserved  
by flash pasteurization at 165 to 170 deg. F. Such temperatures are  
lower than those generally used in processing fruit juices. Precautions  
must be observed in regard to uniform heating in order to produce a  
sterile product. Since mold spores may survive pasteurization, even at  
temperatures up to 185 deg. F. in the juices of lower acidity, it would  
seem advisable to deaerate juices and fill containers hot and full so  
as to exclude air. These lower temperatures have been used successfully  
in experimental canning and bottling of various fruit juices. Fruit  
juices prepared and preserved by the use of flash pasteurization tempera-  
tures and the other precautions mentioned have shown less change in  
quality than similar juices prepared without regard to these factors."



**New Tires for Tractor** By redesigning sidewall and bead construction, a rubber company has developed a farm tractor tire for use on either wide or narrow base rims which, it is stated, gives regular size casings many of the advantages of oversize equipment without extra cost, says a report from the Wall Street Journal Cleveland bureau. A majority of the leading tractor manufacturers have already adopted wide-base rims and tires as standard equipment. Incorporating a radical change in the basic shape of tires, the wide-base principle is proving successful for tractor casings. Farm tire sales during the last few years have been increasing rapidly and are estimated in 1939 to have reached an all-time high of about \$25,000,000. Tractor tires account for the major part of this total.

**Portable Silos** Portable silos are discussed by J. Hunter-Smith, Hertfordshire Institute of Agriculture, in the British Journal of the Ministry of Agriculture (March). "A portable silo was obtained for trial purposes in the late autumn of 1936," he says. "It was erected and filled somewhat hurriedly with luxuriant aftermath rich in clover, and left till March of the following year. By then the full cylinder of green stuff had shrunk into remarkably small space, and there was some curiosity to see what the material would be like; how it would compare with the silage from a tower silo fed during the winter, and whether the cattle would take to it. As it happened, this silage had a more pronounced odour than that made in the tower silo, but it was greedily consumed by the stock and it was pleasant to note how completely every clover plant and leaf had been preserved. The success of this initial experience led to the adoption of the portable silo as a regular supplement to the existing tower silo, and four of them are now in use on the Institute Farm."

**Science Dictionary** "Attention should be called to a much-needed, valuable little dictionary for aid in reading scientific German, especially when one must traverse other fields outside one's own," says H. K. Fink, California Institute of Technology, in Science (April 5). "This is German-English Science Dictionary for Students in the Agricultural, Biological and Physical Sciences, by Louis De Vries, Iowa State College and others.) "It contains 48,000 entries; the book has been kept 'pocket-size' by omitting many compound words, whose meaning can readily be derived from the components. There has been a crying need for just such a volume to serve general science in the manner that Patterson's serves chemistry.....The vocabulary selection and word-meanings have been broadly selected and will serve a large group of people."

**Fortification with Vitamins** "Recognition of the practice of fortifying foods with vitamins by leading authorities in the field of nutrition and public health was the outstanding development in this field in 1939," says Philip H. Van Itallie, in Northwest-ern Miller (April 3). "While no entirely new classes of food were fortified with vitamins, the adoption of fortification by dozens of leading brands resulted in a very large increase in the use of vitamin concentrates in the food industry.....The fact that proper scientific personnel is necessary to superintend the use and incorporation of vitamins has become more generally realized. The powers now vested in the government to challenge any loose statements on the vitamin content of foods impose the definite obligation on the manufacturer to make absolutely sure that the vitamins claimed on the label are actually there and in the amounts claimed, and have not been totally or partially destroyed in the course of, or after, their incorporation....."

**Conservation Education** "Last summer Massachusetts' unique conservation truck was manned by two Massachusetts State College students," says William Gould Vinal in an article, "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Nature," in Nature Magazine (April). "These itinerant preachers on the gospel wagon of conservation went at the job with the ardor of revivalists. The truck was outfitted by the Massachusetts Conservation Council, which is composed of fifteen well-known state organizations including the New England Wild Flower Preservation Society, the New England Federation of Bird Clubs, the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, and so on. The truck was a home, a museum and a school on wheels. These Nature pilots visited camps, parks and county fairs.

"Many other states are actively recognizing that progress in conservation is fundamental. A program in conservation is possible because of the techniques of science. Its success is equally dependent on the knowledge and patriotism of all of the citizens. It is hoped that funds will be forthcoming from some public or private source to make possible other conservation trucks. The leaders to be selected must have the feeling of the national motive and the crusading spirit to carry it out..."

**Paper From Flax Fiber** "An example of farm chemurgy's possibilities is a paper company in Pisgah Forest, N.C.," says Business Week (April 6). "An official of the company knew the instability of the supply of cigarette paper, practically all of which was made in France and Italy from linen rags gathered in eastern Europe. He induced Minnesota and California flax growers to raise varieties for fiber instead of for seed, and since last September the company's four paper machines have been working 24 hours a day, with 900 employees. It is using a tonnage of flax fiber requiring 75,000 to 100,000 acres to produce and must increase its output 50 percent to meet demand."



# DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the Press Service, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture to present items of interest to agriculture and to agricultural workers. Views and opinions in these items are not necessarily approved by the Department.

Vol. LXXVII, No. 8

Section 1

April 10, 1940

NORWEGIAN, DANISH TRADE      The occupation of Denmark and Norway by German troops probably will have little immediate effect upon the export of farm products from the United States. In the long run, however, the cessation of Scandinavian farm exports to the United Kingdom may lead to an increased demand for this country's farm products, according to the Department. All of the Danish supplies now are likely to be diverted to Germany but there is a very serious question whether Danish production can be maintained at anything approaching recent levels because of the difficulty in obtaining corn and other animal feed supplies. It is unlikely that Denmark will be able to obtain her normal supply of corn from Argentina and the United States.

CHERRY TREE CELEBRATION      Washington was ready last night for its cherry blossom celebration, says the Washington Post. The Weather Bureau said cloudy skies and wind yesterday were unfavorable to frost, even if the temperature dropped below expectations. Edward Kelly, assistant to the superintendent of National Capital Parks, predicted that the main show at the Tidal Basin would be out Friday in time for the coronation of the cherry blossom queen at 7:50 p.m.

R. H. TRUE      Dr. Rodney Howard True, distinguished plant physiologist, who from 1901 to 1920 was a Department of Agriculture scientist, died yesterday, according to the Associated Press. He had recently been a professor of botany at the University of Pennsylvania and director of the Morris Arboretum, Philadelphia. He formerly headed the division of drug and poisonous plants in the Agriculture Department.

WATERWAYS, FLOOD FUNDS      The Senate Appropriations Committee yesterday reversed the action of its subcommittee and sliced \$55,000,000 for proposed waterway projects off the War Department civil functions bill, says the Associated Press. Holding its approval of total expenditures to \$223,362,517, the full committee struck out \$30,000,000 for flood control projects and \$25,000,000 for rivers and harbors work inserted in the appropriations measure by the subcommittee.

Civil Service      The Civil Service Commission announces the following examinations: No. 28, unassembled, Principal Information Specialist, \$5,600, optional subjects (1) Press and Publications, (2) Radio; No. 27, assembled, Senior Information Specialist, \$4,600, Information Specialist, \$3,800, Associate Information Specialist, \$3,200, Assistant Information Specialist, \$2,600, optional subjects (1) Press and Publications (a) Conservation (Natural Resources), (b) Economics, (c) Sociology and Social Welfare, (d) Agriculture (Biology, Physical Science, Agricultural Economics, and Rural Sociology), (e) Aeronautics, (f) Public Health, (g) Forestry, (h) Education, (2) Radio (a) Conservation (Natural Resources), (b) Economics, (c) Sociology and Social Welfare, (d) Agriculture (Biology, Physical Science, Agricultural Economics, and Rural Sociology), (e) Aeronautics, (f) Public Health, (g) Forestry, (h) Education, (i) Radio and Motion Picture Script Writing. Applications must be on file not later than the following dates: (a) May 6, if received from States other than those named in (b); (b) May 9, if received from the following States: Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

Costs of      "Probably no country in the world is making greater  
Production      progress in the development of efficient and dependable  
                 power farming machinery than the United States," says  
an editorial in California Cultivator (March 23), "and it's this progress that has enabled us to continue to compete successfully with the farmers in other countries even though our per day labor costs are often many times higher. Those who decry the increasing use of mechanized equipment in this country, both on the farm and in industry, seem to forget that it's this greater use of such equipment that has enabled us, as a nation, to pay higher wages to our laborers than any other people on earth.

"While it doesn't now seem likely that we can go a great deal farther in mechanizing the production and harvesting of most of our staple crops, yet our great agricultural machinery plants are continually striving to develop new labor-saving equipment and to improve and make more efficient that which we already have. Thus with new and better machinery being developed for the production of farm crops, making it possible to grow and harvest these crops at still lower costs per unit, we may ere long be able to take advantage of the new uses being developed for some of our crops that, at present, we cannot afford to grow at the prices these new uses can pay."



**New Age of  
Chemicals**

"Ten years ago the announcement that the Standard Oil Company had decided to make a synthetic rubber under German patents would have been striking news," says an editorial in the New York Times. "Today it is relegated to a minor position, not because the rubber in question is German or because it is better than half a dozen similar synthetics made in this country, but because we expect the chemists to progress. It is worth noting that what once began as a quest for an exact chemical duplicate of latex from the rubber tree has ended by ignoring nature entirely and giving us something which she either forgot or for which she had no use.....

"Like the fifteen hundred plastics from which everything is made, from a fountain pen to imitation jewelry, from silk-like fibers to substitutes for leather, the new rubbers testify to a revolution which is just as profound as that brought about by the steam engine and automatic machinery.....The steam engine, the electric motor, the phonograph, radio, leave no doubt about their effect. But to make a tire out of synthetic rather than natural rubber, or a lens out of a transparent plastic rather than glass, seems but a slight technological change. Actually, the chemist is easing us into a new age -- an age in which we shall make raw materials to suit ourselves instead of digging them out of the ground or taking them from animals and plants."

**Film  
Center**

American Film Center, 45 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, will give free advice to anyone planning visual education. They have made careful selections after reviewing hundreds of films. The rental of many of these are extremely low and some of them, distributed by the U. S. Film Service, Department of Agriculture and other public agencies, are free. (American Sociological Review, April.)

**"Flexible  
Froster"**

A new method of quick freezing, which appears to have considerable merit especially for handling full drawn poultry, is the "flexible froster," says an article in Ice and Refrigeration (April). The new method was first tried out at the New York College of Agriculture at Ithaca. The quick freezer is based on the principle of using a flexible, elastic refrigerating surface that contacts the product as completely as possible. The college conducted tests on the machine in 1939 with broilers, some individually wrapped in cellophane and some left unwrapped. Examination of the frozen broilers showed them to be in good condition.

**Inspection  
of Pine**

Plans for the establishment of a bureau to conduct all grading, inspection and standardization of southern pine lumber, as required by the consent decree entered into by the Southern Pine Association in federal court recently in New Orleans, have been formed, says a report in Southern Lumberman (April 1). The new organization has been named the Southern Pine Inspection Bureau.

Flax Roller                      There is considerable interest in flax-growing  
Attachment                      territories over the announcement of a new flax rubber  
roller attachment for a harvester, says Farm Implement  
News (April 4). Flax, as is well known, is a difficult crop to harvest  
successfully with ordinary equipment, especially in heavy yields. The  
bolls in which the seed is contained are not easily broken open, except  
when very dry or brittle. In some territories, a large proportion of  
the bolls will pass through the threshing cylinder unbroken, due to the  
tough, resilient nature of the shell of the boll. The new flax roller  
attachment is said to have solved this problem. It was tested thorough-  
ly in California last year and performed outstandingly in world-record  
yielding flax in California's Imperial Valley.

Frozen Food                      Writing in the Locker Patron for April, S. T. War-  
Lockers                      rington, of the Farm Credit Administration, discusses  
for Farms                      frozen food units for the farm. He says: "The three  
home units more frequently considered are: (1) Frozen  
storage compartments as a part of the regular household electric re-  
frigerator that have one-half a cubic foot to 3 cubic feet of frozen  
storage space; (2) portable frozen food cabinets with capacities rang-  
ing from 10 to 50 cubic feet; (3) 'walk in' coolers which have a  
frozen storage compartment in one portion, the latter having a storage  
capacity of 10 to 50 or more cubic feet. These units are built on the  
farm....."

Carpet                              If you are buying a new pile floor carpet you  
Label                              should find it stamped or labeled as to exact fiber  
content, exact dimensions, and recommended cleaning  
treatment. The Institute of Carpet Manufacturers of America, Inc.,  
has adopted detailed regulations for labeling to protect purchasers  
and encourage fair dealing among producers. (Forecast, April.)

Vaccination                      Successful Farming for April carries an article by  
for Bang's                      Colin Kennedy on "Calfhood Vaccination," in which he  
says: ".....In Bang's eradication work it would seem  
that much more satisfactory results will be obtained if the disease is  
attacked from all angles. Vermont has pointed the way in state clean-up  
laws by making elective the method to be used in the various herds. How-  
ever, close supervision is kept of herds electing vaccination, thorough  
records are kept on each vaccinated calf, and only state and federally  
approved vaccine, administered by an approved veterinarian, can be used.  
It is not unlikely that we will soon see similar legislation brought up  
for consideration in a number of states, particularly in the East. It is  
also not improbable that the Bureau of Animal Industry will, in the not-  
far-distant future, make known the results of the widespread experimental  
work and make specific recommendations concerning vaccination. This,  
coupled with better uniformity in state laws in place of the present  
'every state for itself' attitude will do much to bring Bang's-disease  
eradication work out of its now rather chaotic condition. At least  
signs for the future are hopeful."



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Section 1

April 11, 1940

## WINTER WHEAT ESTIMATE

With an estimated 29 percent of the seeded acreage abandoned because of damage from drought and other unfavorable weather conditions, the Department of Agriculture forecast yesterday a crop of winter wheat of 426,215,000 bushels, the smallest since 1933.

Based on conditions prevailing on April 1, the estimate was about 27,000,000 bushels larger than one made on the basis of conditions prevailing on December 1. The department said conditions had improved since the latter date, but that there was much uncertainty about the crop in the heart of the winter wheat belt, particularly in Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and parts of Colorado and Texas.

The winter wheat forecast was nearly a fourth lower than last year's production of 563,431,000 bushels and the 10-year (1929-38) average of 571,067,000 bushels. Despite the short crop outlook, officials said indications pointed to ample supplies to meet normal domestic requirements of about 660,000,000 bushels annually. (A.P.)

## RAMSPECK BILL TESTIMONY

"The Keller-Nichols amendment to restrict the benefits of the Ramspeck civil service extension bill by application of the apportionment law principles was scored as unworkable and unjust by members of the Civil Service Commission and other witnesses, as the Senate Civil Service Committee yesterday opened hearings on the measure," says J. A. Fox in the Washington Star. "From our viewpoint, the amendment is practically impossible of administration," Harry B. Mitchell, president of the commission, said.

"Under the proviso, workers in the departmental service would be barred from acquiring civil service status if they hailed from states which--according to population--have more residents in service here than their apportioned quota calls for.

"If we had our way, we would have a real merit system and get rid of the apportionment law entirely," H. Eliot Kaplan, executive secretary of the National Civil Service Reform League, told the committee..."

## FREIGHT HANDLERS

The Shippers Conference of Greater New York approved unanimously yesterday a pending bill in Congress which would bring freight forwarders under regulation of the Interstate Commerce Commission, thus giving them the right to make rates as common carriers. The bill is now before the I.C.C. committee of the Senate. (New York Times.)

Cotton  
Fabric

In April Forecast, Elna H. Wharton, Office of Information, tells of research by the Bureau of Home Economics in determining quality of cotton fabrics. "The Bureau," she says in part, "has consistently advocated that as much technical information as possible be given on the labels of all textile fabrics and articles. This of course includes cottons. As a result of the tests of sheetings and subsequent recommendations to the American Home Economics Association and the American Society for Testing Materials, more helpful information is now available about sheets than for any other household textile. Practically all sheet manufacturers now state the size of the sheet on the label and many also give the thread count. A few tell the breaking strength and weight of the fabric as well as the kind and amount of finish. Sometimes the number of washings a sheet will withstand is given as a guide to possible wear....."

Pulpwood  
From Pine  
Tops

".....On the use of topwood hinges one of the most interesting stories and most far-reaching conservation developments originating in East Texas forests in recent years," says E. O. Siecke, Director, Texas Forest Service, in Farm Ranch for April. "There is a great potential supply of topwood available in standing timber in East Texas today. The recent forest survey conducted by the U. S. Forest Service has estimated the wood volume in pine timber of sawlog size to amount to over 41,000,000 cords. Approximately 7,500,000 cords of this total volume are in the tops. Foresters estimate there were over 300,000 cords of stemwood left in the unmerchantable tops of pine sawlog trees in 1938. It is true that the possibilities of producing pulpwood from logging slash are limited to the areas from which pulp mills manufacturing pulp by chemical processes are drawing their wood supplies. With the expansion of the industry it may be assumed that new mills can also look to logging tops to partially supply their yards. Within the present pulp mill areas, however, the production of pulpwood from topwood is a forward step....."

Patent  
System

"The 150th anniversary of the founding of the American patent system is being celebrated this month," says an editorial in Industrial and Engineering Chemistry (April). "The observance really began with the national Modern Pioneer program of the National Association of Manufacturers, through its recognition of outstanding inventors and research workers. We noted the large proportion of those so honored are members of the American Chemical Society. United States Patent No. 1 was a chemical patent dealing with the preparation of potash from pearl ash....."



War and Trade                      Extension of the European war to Scandinavia is threatening to close off the prosperous and growing trade between the United States and northern Europe, says a report by the Wall Street Journal Washington bureau. This trade has averaged about \$700,000 a day during the last two years. As far as American shipping is concerned, the three Scandinavian countries -- Norway, Sweden and Denmark -- will be formally isolated by a neutrality proclamation defining all of the long Norwegian coast as part of the "combat area" and prohibited to American vessels. The spreading war will make such trade dangerous and expensive in foreign vessels. To the United States this will mean a near-total loss of at least 4 percent of its foreign trade, a trade which has been growing steadily during the past 10 years. Total exports, including reexports, of merchandise from the United States to the four "northern countries"-- Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Finland--in 1939 amounted to \$166,088,000, while total imports amounted to \$88,364,000.

Castor Bean                      A Washington report from Science Service (April 5)  
Insect Spray                      says: "A new spray for killing insects, extracted from leaves of the castor bean plant, was described at a meeting of the Agricultural Chemical Association by Dr. Richard Holzcker, chemist of New Jersey. The new insecticide is claimed to be highly effective against all kinds of insect pests, operating both as contact and stomach poison. The spray has been used in large-scale experiments, principally in Florida, for the protection of garden truck and citrus fruits. Doctor Holzcker stated that fewer sprayings were needed with the new material than with commercial sprays now in use. He said also that the castor-leaf spray appears to have a stimulating effect on the trees, hastening the ripening of the fruit....."

Foreign Trade                      The large excess of merchandise exports over imports in February                      in United States trade with Europe resulted in an export balance of \$147,000,000 in February, compared with a balance of \$60,000,000 in February last year, the Department of Commerce reports. The department said that although exports to Europe usually run much larger in value than imports, heavy exports of cotton and various manufactured products has been bringing the export balance up steadily ever since last November. (New York Times.)

Tractors for                      A cable in the New York Times says President  
Nicaragua                      Anastasio Somoza has announced that \$60,000 worth of American tractors, plows and harrows have been ordered to increase agricultural production. It will be Nicaragua's first attempt at mechanized farming. The land is cultivated now chiefly by ox-drawn, primitive plows. Experts believe crop production on a scientific basis will be increased 100 percent in the first year.



Poultry  
Progress

John Bird of the Department writing on "Tomorrow in Poultry", in Successful Farming (April) says in part: "...Although somewhat tardy in getting a start, the poultry industry has moved so speedily down the broad highway of modern science that many producers are wondering just what tomorrow is going to bring from the laboratory, the breeding pen, and the marketplace to speed up the pace.....The farm flock is the greatest producer of the nation's poultry and eggs.....Present egg-production makes it possible for every individual in the United States to have an egg on his plate at least 306 days a year, and to eat 21 pounds of poultry meat a year....."

"Most significant, increased consumption may come about without an increase in the size of the poultry flocks, at least for egg-laying purposes. The ease with which John Doe, average poultry-raiser, can get well-bred stock and provide a well-balanced ration for his flock is bringing about a steady increase in the average production per bird.....Such a trend may mean that the same-sized flocks can produce more eggs at less cost per egg than at present, making it possible to sell at lower prices. It might also decrease the amount of poultry meat available as a by-product of eggs, enlarging consumption of turkeys and broilers and putting new emphasis on the production of fryers, broilers, and roasters in special areas serving large centers of population.....In the meantime, the scientists have lots of new things in the laboratories which may speed the industry ahead even faster than schedule. Artificial insemination, for example, is out of the lab stage, and is now a practical means for multiplying the influence of superior inheritance....."

Grass for  
Humans

Scientists have just discovered how to put the rich vitamin content of grass into palatable foods for man, says Science Service (April 3). W. R. Graham, G. O. Kohler and C. F. Schnabel, scientists of Kansas City, reported to the American Chemical Society that their work was "the first successful scientific effort to transmit the unique properties of grass directly into human nutrition." The vitamin content of grass leaves, the scientists say, is vastly greater than the vitamin content of the four standard classes into which fruits and vegetables are divided. Grass leaves, known as cerophyl, on an equal weight basis contain 280,000 international units of vitamin A whereas potatoes and sweetpotatoes contain only 1,000 units; tomatoes and citrus fruits only 2,000; leafy, green and yellow vegetables 12,000; other fruits and vegetables 1,290. In crucial vitamin B<sub>1</sub> content, grasses contain 1,300 international units, about ten times the amount obtainable from any other vegetables and fruits. "Recent experiments," the report continued, "have shown that the processed product contains sufficient of all the vitamins both known or unknown to support the normal rapid growth of laboratory animals when fed only cerophyl and water."



# DAILY DIGEST

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Vol. LXXVII, No. 10

Section 1

April 12, 1940

**GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION** President Roosevelt yesterday submitted to Congress his fourth and final order on government reorganization.

Among the shifts proposed in the order are:

Transfer of the Food and Drug Administration from the Department of Agriculture to the Federal Security Agency; transfer of the Weather Bureau from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of Commerce; and division of the Soil Conservation Service to place that section concerned with public lands under Interior and that concerned with private lands under Agriculture.

No change was made in the status of the Forest Service, around which a controversy has been carried on as efforts were made to have it moved from Agriculture to Interior. The President's orders become effective 60 days from the submission to Congress unless both branches take disapproving action within that time. (Washington Star.)

**NORDIC CREDITS** Henry Morgenthau, Jr., Secretary of the Treasury, yesterday imposed the embargo on movements of Danish and Norwegian funds from the United States which President Roosevelt ordered day before yesterday. It was the first use of the government's exchange-control power dating from the World War emergency since the economic crisis of 1933. It will be his purpose, Secretary Morgenthau explained, to expedite the movement of funds of the countries newly occupied by Germany where it is shown that they are legitimate business transactions. (New York Times.)

Warren Lee Pierson, president of the Export-Import Bank, said yesterday before the Academy of Political Science that the German invasion of Norway and Denmark may compel the cancellation of United States Government's credit to those Scandinavian countries. "We sought to assist in maintaining our ordinary trade with those countries," he said, "by furnishing small credits which were needed because of the effect of war upon their exchange positions. The shocking events of the past few hours may, of course, require us to cancel some of these commitments." (Press.)

**CATTLE ON FEED** The Agriculture Department reported yesterday that the number of cattle on feed for market in the 11 principal corn belt states on April 1 was about 2 percent larger than a year earlier and the largest for that date since 1936. (A.P.)

## Section 2

**"Hotcaps"  
for Plants**

A transparent "hotcap" for the protection of tender young vegetable plants in northern latitudes has been developed by Prof. Albert E. Wilkinson, extension specialist in vegetable and landscape gardening at the University of Connecticut. He tried them experimentally in his own garden last year and now is urging their use by commercial and home gardeners. The miniature hothouses are made from cellulose acetate sheeting which can be purchased commercially.

A triangular piece of the material is fashioned into a simple cone. The apex of the cone is snipped off to provide ventilation. A piece of wire bent into a hook is then thrust into the ground through this aperture and holds the cone in place. The hotcaps can be made at home with no tools but shears, wire, wire cutters and paper clips to hold the edges of the material together in the cone shape. The edges can be cemented together with liquid cellulose acetate. (Science News Letter, April 13.)

**Plywood in  
Construction**

One of the most interesting of the building materials now on the market is plywood. It is available in either Douglas fir or redwood. It is used in many types of construction, even for exterior surfaces and sheathing, for the latter lower grades being used. Alternate plies are placed at right angles, giving great strength and rigidity, and eliminating warping and shrinking. Weather-proof plywood is prepared under tremendous pressure, using a form of crude carboic acid as a binder. Thus the laminations of wood become virtually one integral unit. Water does not affect the product, termites and teredos are completely discouraged, and the plywood is relatively fireproof. Techniques of manufacture have been worked out by the U. S. Forest Products Laboratory, and various lumber manufacturers are making plywood according to government recommendations and specifications. (Pacific Rural Press, April 6.)

**Beltsville  
Forest**

Custody of the buildings just completed on the 1900-acre site for an experimental forest at Beltsville has been assigned to the Forest Service. T. E. Maki will transfer from the Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, Ogden, Utah, to supervise the work, under the general technical supervision of R. D. Forbes, Director of the Allegheny Forest Experiment Station, in whose geographical territory the experimental forest is located. Initial work at the station will follow silvicultural operations and development of the forest into a good research-demonstration area, and fundamental studies of some basic forest problems such as seed and tree physiology and growth, forest-soil relations and the like.



**Speed Control on Combine**      The recently announced four-foot combine has a variable-speed device which is especially worthy of mention, says Northwest Farm Equipment Journal (April), "Efficiency of threshing action," it continues, "depends largely upon the cylinder speed. This is particularly true with the flail-type cylinder. In the early part of the day when the heads are still somewhat tough, a slightly higher cylinder speed may be desirable to do the most efficient job of threshing as compared with the speed required later on in the day when sun and wind have reduced the moisture content of the grain. With the variable-speed device on the combine it is easy to adjust the speed anywhere from 930 r.p.m. to 1700 r.p.m. by merely turning a hand screw and crank. This range of speed is obtainable when the belt sheaves are arranged in regular position for grain threshing, as shipped from the factory. By reversing or changing the sheaves on the cylinder shaft and the countershaft, a range in speeds from 930 r.p.m. down to 400 r.p.m. can be obtained. These lower speeds, of course, are required only with special seed crops, such as beans, peas, etc....."

**Crops for Idle Acres**      "Severe reduction in cotton acreage has given Texas farmers a livelier interest than ever in crop diversification, particularly in the growing of crops that are in demand for industrial use," says an editorial in the Dallas Morning News. "They are awaiting the outcome of experiments with soybeans and other new crops for Texas land, as well as those seeking new uses for cotton lint.....Texas experiments with castor beans have been encouraging thus far. If processing plants are built in the right places, the castor plant, with its many by-products, may become a highly profitable crop here. Today the demand for oils for industrial use, caused in part by curtailment of tung-oil shipments from China, has led to cultivation even of the thistle-like safflower that grows on the high plains of West Texas and Eastern New Mexico. A test planting near Deming, N.M., last year yielded 2,200 pounds of seed per acre, and a larger planting is being made this year. Two crops a year can be harvested, and a cake suitable for livestock feed remains after the oil is extracted. Texas farmers welcome the help being given by chemists and industrialists seeking new farm sources for their raw materials. (PPS 309.)

**New AMS Services**      Government estimates of monthly milk production on farms were issued for the first time March 18 by the Agricultural Marketing Service. These estimates will be available currently in a mid-month release. A new series of consolidated monthly reports on poultry and eggs also was begun March 15. The purpose of these reports is to give to those interested in poultry and egg production and marketing a single comprehensive statistical report monthly.

Baby Potato,                      Baby Potato lima bean recently received the highest  
New Lima                      number of votes of any new variety considered for 1939  
                                 "All-American" honors by the council of the Seed Trade  
Association of North America. The new variety was segregated from a  
single selection of Henderson, crossed accidentally with a potato lima  
variety. It is a canner's and freezer's variety, has pronounced pod  
concentration and uniformity, yields as well or better than Henderson,  
and is of excellent canning quality. Baby Potato was discovered by  
W. A. Huelsen, University of Illinois College of Agriculture. (The  
Prairie Farmer, April.)

Airplane                      One of the foremost sections in the adoption of air-  
Dusting                      plane dusting is the Lower Rio Grande Valley, where many  
                                 thousands of acres of both citrus and vegetable crops  
are dusted from the air each season, says J. H. Welch in an article in  
Texas Farming and Citriculture (April). "One company with headquarters  
in Louisiana has a resident pilot in this field. Other operators are  
pilots who usually do their own flying and own their own equipment.....  
The pilot's charges are based on the number of pounds of poison dust he  
applies. The price range is ordinarily from two to five cents a pound,  
depending mainly upon the amount of dust used per acre. The more the  
poundage, the less the price, since the pilot's costs are about the same  
whether the quantity is large or small. For a citrus grove which calls,  
on the average, for from thirty-five to forty pounds of dust an acre,  
the charge is usually two cents a pound or slightly more. For a field  
of vegetables requiring not more than four or five pounds to the acre,  
the charge is naturally higher.

"The grower of course supplies the dust. Sulphur for citrus rust  
mite will cost him about two and a half cents a pound, or a little less  
if bought in quantity. Assuming the sulphur cost to be that just mention-  
ed and the application charge to be two cents an acre, we have a total  
cost of 4.5 cents a pound and, for 35 pounds to the acre, an airplane  
dusting cost of \$1.57 an acre. The fact that the pilot gets only 70  
cents an acre if his charge is two cents a pound explains why he is not  
inclined to warm up a plane and go very far afield if a farmer has  
quite a small acreage to be dusted....."

New Potato                      A new disease of potatoes, called bacterial ring  
Disease                      rot, is threatening to spread in West Virginia. Plant  
                                 disease specialists in all the important potato states  
are pooling their efforts to learn more about this new disease, and  
the College of Agriculture has just received from Dr. R. J. Haskell,  
extension plant pathologist of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, a  
summary of finding and recommendations of the group. (Pennsylvania  
Farmer, April 6.)



# DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the Press Service, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture to present items of interest to agriculture and to agricultural workers. Views and opinions in these items are not necessarily approved by the Department.

Vol. LXXVII, No. 11

Section 1

April 15, 1940.

## LARD PRICES ADVANCE

Lard prices were on the upgrade last week on investment buying based on the change in the European political situation, says a Chicago report to the New York Times. While there were fair hedging sales at times, these were partly offset by the announcement that more than 14,000,000 pounds of lard had been purchased by the government for relief purposes. Stocks of lard, however, continue to pile up, and official estimate as of April 1 showed a total of 269,284,000 pounds in cold storage, the largest holding on record. This total showed a gain of 12,644,000 pounds in March and compared with a stock of 129,252,000 pounds a year ago and a five-year average of 129,909,000 pounds.

## TRANSPORT SYSTEM

State and local tax relief for railroads, and "deliberate and calculated" planning for future transportation were urged last night by Joseph B. Eastman, chairman of the Interstate Commerce Commission. A surplus of transportation facilities, he said in a four-volume report on public help for rail, water, highway and air carriers, has been brought about by extension of many billions of dollars of public aid, which in many instances, he said, has proven "of little public benefit." (Washington Post.)

## FARM WAGES INCREASE

The general level of farm wage rates advanced about twice as much as usual from January 1 to April 1, the Agricultural Marketing Service has reported. At 124 percent of the 1910-14 level, farm wage rates on April 1 were 5 points higher than the January index, 3 points above April 1 a year ago, and the highest April 1 figure since 1931. But the increase in the number of workers employed was less than usual during the 3-month period. The increase in wage rates, attributed largely to a decline in the supply of farm labor and to an increase in the demand, were noted in all sections of the country.

## 4-H CLUB ENROLLMENT

A new enrollment peak in 4-H Club work was reached in 1939 with more than 1,381,500 boys and girls belonging to some 79,500 4-H Clubs in the 48 States, Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico, Director Wilson of the Extension Service has announced. This record membership represents an increase of more than 95,000 members over the preceding year.

Wallace  
on FCA

"The public is entitled to accurate information concerning the real issues in the controversy over the Farm Credit Administration and the farm credit situation generally," said Secretary Wallace in a recent statement. "Efforts have been made to persuade everyone interested that the Department's supervision of FCA and support of proposals to help debt-burdened farmers threatens to wreck the credit structure of agriculture. In the light of experience gained since the FCA became a part of the Department, I can say that certain farm credit policies in the past have been unsound and if continued without modification will cause serious losses to land banks and farmer borrowers. The real threat to our farm credit structure is to go on as we have been going.

"The Department now is taking steps to place the credit policy of the FCA on a sound basis.....There are at least three basic needs. The first of these is revision of interest rates. They should and can be lowered from original contract rates ranging between 4 and 6 percent.... Second, the responsibility for losses on loans should be placed where it belongs -- on the Federal land banks which make the loans and not on the national farm loan associations, most of which have become insolvent.... A third need is the elimination of the requirement that the borrower acquire stock amounting to five percent of his loan. In practice, this requirement has added 5 percent to the amount borrowed and has injured the debtor....."

Windbreaks

The number of birds and other wildlife on farms in North and South Dakota, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma and the Texas Panhandle has increased as a result of field windbreaks, the Forest Service reports. Since 1935, more than 11,000 miles of field windbreaks, including some 125 million trees, have been planted under Forest Service supervision on farms in the six States. The increase of insect-eating birds in the tree windbreaks was spotlighted recently by a preliminary "bird census" carried out by the Forest Service. Done on a sampling basis for the most part the check revealed such striking indication of bird increase on farms with windbreaks that a more thorough survey of windbreaks planted by the Service is being sought. In two of the States, local officers sent questionnaires to owners of farms in typical, widely scattered sections. In the others, Forest Service men made counts of birds in some places, and nests in others.

Certified  
Pepper Seed

Pennsylvania is the only State having an available source of certified pepper seed, according to John H. Light, State Secretary of Agriculture. In 1934 the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture prepared regulations for the certification of pepper seed. Since that time growers have followed an intensive seed improvement program which has resulted in the development of pepper varieties that show pure varietal characteristics. (Press.)



Transportation                    "There is renewed hope for some order out of  
Coordination                    chaos in our national transportation system in the  
                                 appointment of Owen D. Young to take charge of a  
study of its complexities," says an editorial in the New York Times.  
"Mr. Young and a committee of which he is to serve as chairman will  
carry on the studies begun by Joseph E. Eastman when he was Federal  
Coordinator of Transportation....The plight of the railroads, with  
huge funded debt and revenues seriously impaired, has led them into  
widely diversified attacks on an increasingly lusty young rival --  
highway transportation. Mounting business on the airlines, both in  
passengers and goods, begins to offer a threat to the several forms  
of surface transport. Neither ocean steamship nor inland waterway  
service is without perplexing problems.

"What is needed is a thoroughgoing coordination of all the  
services of land, water and air, based upon expert investigation, so  
that our immense resources in mechanical skills may be put to the  
best use. Something of this may be accomplished if and when the Con-  
gress takes favorable action on the omnibus transportation bill now  
in conference. Meanwhile the more light on so difficult a subject  
the better. The problem is a long-range one. Mr. Young, by experience  
and ability, is well fitted to see it whole."

4-H "Grads"                    A survey has just been completed by R. A. Turner  
in College                    of the Extension Service which shows that 37.78 per-  
                                 cent of the students now enrolled in agriculture and  
home economics at the agricultural colleges in the Central States are  
former 4-H Club members. The actual number of former 4-H Club members  
enrolled in 1939-40 is 6,934 which, when compared with the 751  
reported in the first survey made in 1927-28, clearly indicates a  
definite trend. Illinois, with 49.53, reported the largest percentage  
of students who were former 4-H Club members. Indiana ranked second  
with 47.94 percent; Nebraska third, with 44.79 percent; Kansas fourth,  
with 43.32 percent; and Iowa fifth, with 41.56 percent. (Extension  
Service Review, April.)

Source of                    The recent order of the United States Government  
Quinine                    for 700,000 ounces of quinine is one of the largest  
                                 single orders for the drug ever recorded says a press  
report. The order was placed in Amsterdam, chief market for the supply  
from the Netherlands Indies. "Efforts were made in California more  
than fifty years ago to grow the cinchona tree, from the bark of which  
quinine is obtained; but experiments failed, just as did those made  
later in California, in Louisiana and Florida," says a bulletin from  
the National Geographic Society. "Now Uncle Sam is trying to produce  
the drug in Puerto Rico.....Java is the source of more than 90 percent  
of the world supply, a virtual monopoly."

Exports to Scandinavia      A special bulletin on United States trade with Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Finland has been issued by the Department of Commerce. The report shows that exports from the United States to Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Finland have increased since the beginning of 1939 and this rising tendency was accentuated after September, 1939. The principal United States products exported directly to these northern countries in 1939 were automobiles, machinery, petroleum products, raw cotton, iron and steel, copper, foodstuffs and tobacco. (Wall Street Journal.)

Jap Beetle in Illinois      "One of the most serious insect pests of foreign origin which has ever invaded Illinois is the Japanese beetle," says J. H. Lloyd, Director, Illinois Department of Agriculture, in the Prairie Farmer (April 6). "...A cooperative project, between the Illinois State Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine was organized to halt the spread of the beetle. During the past two seasons assistance was also obtained from the World Progress Administration. Due to the efforts of these agencies the beetle infestations in Illinois have been held at a minimum; and today, almost six years after the first of these pests was discovered in Illinois, no commercial damage has been occasioned by them and the beetle population has been greatly reduced from its peak in 1936....."

"A hearing was held in Washington, to consider the advisability of discontinuing the Federal quarantine. The Illinois State Pest Control Committee concluded that the Federal quarantine should be maintained and that biological control measures should be inaugurated in Illinois as soon as possible. It was further concluded that studies on the effect of this pest on soy beans and other leading Illinois crops should be undertaken to learn, if possible, whether or not certain varieties are in any degree resistant to the attack of this insect....."

Markets for Pulp      Paper companies are studying the effects of the northward trend of the European war on Scandinavian pulp producing countries with a view to establishing new paper prices, which are based on the cost of pulp to the paper manufacturers, says a report in the Wall Street Journal. Pulp prices are fixed quarterly and the current price for No. 1 paper pulp is \$61 a ton.

Another report in the Journal says that Great Britain and France may have to enter the American and Canadian markets for a large portion of their pulp supplies should the Norwegian, Swedish and Finnish markets be cut off. Elimination of pulp supplies from these three countries will not create any pulp shortage for American consumers since pulp producers in the United States and Canada have productive capacities ample for normal demands.



# DAILY DIGEST

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Vol. LXXVII, No. 12

Section 1

April 16, 1940.

## WALLACE ASKS MODIFIED FARM PLAN

Secretary Wallace urged Congress yesterday to make what he called 21 "minor modifications" in the farm program in the interest of "effective and economical administration." His proposed amendments, directed chiefly at wheat, cotton and tobacco phases of the program, did not, he said, "call for any substantial change" because of his belief in the program's basic soundness. His recommendations were made in a letter to Speaker Bankhead.

Among general changes, he proposed amendments to which he said would: Simplify the method of making payments to deceased payees; require persons entitled to benefit payments to apply personally therefor; clarify the definition of "market" to make the act applicable to the marketing by producers of cotton, wheat, rice or tobacco in processed form, and to include gifts under "marketing"; provide penalties for buyers who fail to pay the Government penalties collected from producers; extend from one to two years the time in which applications may be made for a refund of a penalty erroneously collected; place upon the producer the burden of proving, in cases of dispute, that he has not marketed a commodity subject to penalty. (A.P.)

## GOVERNMENT GRADUATE TRAINING

The Department of Agriculture's graduate school and similar intra-governmental institutions for the advancement of learning among Federal employees lack full authority of law and fail to account for funds obtained in tuitions and fees, Acting Comptroller General Richard N. Elliott declared in a report to Congress yesterday of training and educational activities of 15 Government departments and independent agencies.

Elliott called attention of the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate to the existence of what amounts to post-graduate universities in the Department of Agriculture, the Farm Credit Administration, and the Department of Commerce. In a letter accompanying the report, Elliott declared his office felt "matters reported" should be brought to Congress' attention and recommended legislation defining the scope of educational programs for Government workers, provided continuation is deemed "proper." (Washington Post.)

Apple Package                "The Pennsylvania Horticultural Association has asked the U. S. Department of Agriculture to call a conference on new apple packages and new grades therefore, inviting all interested neighboring states to send representatives," says Miles Horst in Pennsylvania Farmer (April 6). "The calling of such a conference has grown out of discussions at state meetings of apple growers where the feeling has developed that apple men must find a way of reducing the costs of their packages. Several suggestions will be considered. One is the development of a new combination of materials (wood, fiberboard, steel, etc.) which will permit reducing costs. Another is to increase the size of the package, perhaps a one and three-fifths bushel box, such as the citrus growers use..."

Anglo Soviet Publication        Nature writes that the Anglo Soviet Journal "has been started with the purpose of supply 'the more scientifically skilled and specializing workers in the British Commonwealth with a regular flow of information, accurate and reliable, on the progress and developments that are being realized in the U.S.S.R., in their own field, the field which they understand best.'" The first issue is largely devoted to accounts of exhibitions, particularly of the great Agricultural Exhibition held in Moscow last summer, which was unquestionably the most magnificent effort of its kind the world has ever seen." (Science, April 12.)

Bang's-Free Area Gains                In the cooperative campaign conducted by the Department and the States to eradicate Bang's disease in cattle, the Bureau of Animal Industry has just designated 59 more counties, distributed among 13 States, as additions to the modified accredited Bang's disease-free area. The 59 counties contain approximately 634,000 dairy or breeding cattle 6 months or more of age. The States affected are: Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Idaho, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, North Carolina, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Utah and Washington.

Cotton Use Organization        H. E. Thompson, assistant extension director in Arkansas, was named chairman of a cotton utilization group organized recently at a state-wide meeting, says the Arkansas Gazette. Increased domestic use of cotton is the objective. The organization is composed of federal and state agricultural groups and representatives of the cotton industry. The meeting adopted the government's new cooperative cotton mattress-making program as a starter toward expanded home consumption of cotton despite protests of representatives of the Greater Little Rock mattress manufacturers. (PPS 308.)



Street Tree  
Project

"Trees," says the April issue of this periodical, "has launched a project that should, when completed, be of inestimable value to park superintendents, city foresters, landscape architects and others who plan and plant trees on city streets and highways. It is to be a comprehensive series of nine charts covering the entire country. A chart appeared in the October 1939 issue of Trees for Southern California street trees, and the other sections will be treated on the same basis. The first of the nationwide series to get under way is that for the Northeastern States.....As the charts are compiled they will be made public in Trees, then later brought together in book form along with pictures of individual specimens, outstanding examples of street tree plantings and data on disease and insect problems, etc....."

Forest Fire  
Analysis

"Forest fire danger rating is an important subject to most federal and many state forest protection agencies," says an abstract of an article, "Statistical Analysis of Fire Weather Station Distribution," by William G. Morris, of the Forest Service, in April Journal of Forestry. "It is relatively new and is being rapidly revised and improved. In this development stage one of the first problems of practical application is to determine the number of fire weather observing stations that are necessary for a given precision in measuring the weather factors. The article describes a statistical study of the variation among fire weather observing stations to determine the relative precision obtained from various numbers of stations per ranger district in Oregon and Washington."

Survey of  
Foreclosures

Out of some 12,508 foreclosures completed by the Federal land banks and the Land Bank Commissioner during the 12 months ended December 31, 1939, 30 percent lost their farms because the borrowers were unable to carry the debt burden under ordinary conditions, according to a survey recently made public by Governor A. G. Black of the Farm Credit Administration. The largest percentage of foreclosures resulting from this reason was reported in the Berkeley district where it ran up to 57 percent. The other districts where this reason for foreclosure was very important were as follows: Houston, 30 percent; Wichita, Louisville and Springfield, about 33 percent; St. Paul, 31 percent, and Omaha, 30 percent.

A further analysis of the reasons for foreclosure during the year disclosed that throughout the country at large the land banks ascribed 53 percent to "borrower not doing his honest best," 4 percent to "borrower not taking proper care of security," and 11 percent to "borrower not making proper application of farm income." It is obvious that over-appraisals have been rather frequent, when one out of every three farms is foreclosed because the borrower was unable to carry the debt burden "under normal conditions."



USHA Aids                      The United States Housing Authority has announced  
Farm Home                      that six county housing authorities, located in various  
Construction                      parts of the United States, have been approved to build  
   homes for farm families of low income. The total cost  
of the 1300 projected homes will be \$2,805,000, 90 percent of which  
will be financed by loans from the USHA bearing 2.75 percent interest.  
Sixteen states authorize county housing amortization. In addition  
there should be included the District of Columbia which has created an  
Alley Dwelling Authority and the three New England states of Vermont,  
Massachusetts, and Connecticut which have given similar powers to their  
towns (townships).

The 1,300 houses to be built by the six county authorities are to  
be constructed at an average cost of \$2,000 including land. An annual  
rental charge of \$50 per dwelling, with annual contributions from the  
USHA to maintain low rents, will enable the authorization of the loan  
in sixty years. Only the very lowest income groups among farm families  
will be beneficiaries of the program. Maintenance and repair work by  
the tenants will be credited against the rentals charged them.

In design the dwellings will resemble those under the successive  
jurisdiction of the Subsistence Homesteads Corporation, the Rural Re-  
habilitation Program of the Resettlement Administration, and now under  
the Farm Security Administration. The houses will be of bungalow type,  
of clapboard construction, and composition shingle roofs. They will  
contain four to seven rooms and cost on an average \$1,600. Four hundred  
dollars is allowed to purchase an acre of land for each house. The  
houses will not be grouped together in colonies as under other public  
housing programs, and all families seeking occupancy will be certified  
by the Department of Agriculture on the basis of ability to pay and dis-  
position toward maintenance and repair work. (National Municipal Re-  
view, April.)

Research                      "Many thoughtless people remark that some of the  
and Prices                      newer and highly potent remedies are entirely too ex-  
   pensive," says an editorial in Clinical Medicine and  
Surgery (April). "Let us remember that most of these medicines were  
discovered or invented by highly trained chemists and pharmacologists,  
whose time and knowledge are so valuable that they must be paid for at  
a high price, working, over long periods of time, in the research lab-  
oratories of pharmaceutical manufacturers, and occasionally (but not  
very often) producing a new compound which is safe enough and powerful  
enough to warrant its being placed on the market.....

"As society is at present constituted, the only way to have a  
piece of worthwhile work done promptly and efficiently, is to turn it  
over to some intelligent, energetic, and trained man (or let him start  
out upon it of his own initiative), and show him that he can receive a  
reasonable remuneration for the time and effort expended. If we had had  
to wait for the drugs, machines, and appliances which have made possible  
the recent astonishing advances in medical practice, until official or  
privately endowed institutions got around to figure them out, many of  
our most helpful remedies would still be in the womb of the future....."



# DAILY DIGEST

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Vol. LXXVII, No. 13

Section 1

April 17, 1940.

**CIVIL SERVICE PROTECTION** Charges that "petty tyranny" is practiced by heads of Government agencies in the dismissal of civil service employees were voiced yesterday by Representative Barry of New York, says a report in the Washington Star. Mr. Barry echoed the sentiment of other witnesses at the opening of hearings on nine bills to provide some form of appeal from executive dismissals or suspensions. All witnesses favored some legislation providing an appeals board.

Chairman Ramspeck disagreed with claims that civil service employees have a lifetime guarantee on their jobs. He emphasized they are subject to dismissal at the will of executive heads and said "they are helpless if the head of an agency wants to get rid of them and that is the reason why we are pushing legislation providing for an appeal board."

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**LOBBYING CHARGED TO FCA CHIEF** "A. G. Black, Governor of the Farm Credit Administration, was accused last night by Representative Reed of New York of violating Federal antilobbying statutes by trying to drum up farmer sentiment for the Jones-Wheeler farm credit bill," says Felix Cotten, Washington Post staff writer.

"Reed made public copies of a letter by Black and a memorandum from Secretary Wallace which he said Black had mailed, postage free, under date of April 10 to 630,000 Federal Land Bank borrowers. The letter, he charged, 'was in defiance of two statutes prohibiting political or lobbying activities by Federal officials.'....."

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**GRADUATE SCHOOL** A critical report from Acting Controller General Richard N. Elliott on the operation of the Graduate School of the Department of Agriculture and smaller educational units at the Bureau of Standards and Farm Credit Administration yesterday brought a defense from Dr. Albert F. Woods, head of the Agriculture establishment, says a report in the Washington Star. He declared that it cost the Government nothing, and that the use of such Government facilities as were employed by the school was compensated by the advantages that accrued to the Government through its operation.

The schools offer advanced training in a variety of subjects as well as in-service training designed to broaden the knowledge of Federal employees as to their jobs. Under a cooperative agreement with the American University and University of Maryland it is also possible to get credits at these institutions for the courses pursued in the Government classrooms.

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New Pre-  
Fabricated  
Houses

"Last summer the Pierce Foundation (a non-profit organization) erected at Lebanon, N.J., an experimental House which was intended to be the answer to the demand for modern, low-cost housing," says Business Week (April 13). "The 1939 house, planned for mass production and sale at about \$1,750, including necessary equipment and furniture, proved itself O.K. for territories south of Washington, D. C. No. 2 will provide comfortable living to the Canadian line or beyond, is all-electric, has numerous improvements. Its cost complete was \$2,632. Mass methods in construction and sales should reduce the final price to \$2,500 -- which is within the new FHA plan for home financing.....Outer wall of the new house is of three-eighth inch phenolic plywood; but inside there is one-inch glass fiber blanket insulation, one inch of air space, and one-half inch plywood inner wall....."

"Electrical items include a range, hot water heater, and a 'food chest' (refrigerator). The cooking unit has a fryer whose heat element lifts up disclosing a recess that employs the same element for broiling, also a combination roasting pan and oven. The refrigerator does not make ice cubes, but maintains sufficiently low temperature to preserve foods. The water heater is automatic, of 10-gallon capacity. These units have stood up successfully in 150 use tests. They will be put on the market later.....The planners have developed a special automatic electric scrub bucket and electric tea kettle. These plug into any outlet, shut themselves off when sufficient heat is attained. Also included in the house cost is a toaster, waffle iron and coffee maker, all electric. Tests indicate that the average economical family can run this equipment for about \$10 a month where the cost for current is around 2¢ per kilowatt hour minimum....."

FSA Texas  
Collections

Record-breaking collections from farm families who a few years ago were denied credit by all other private and public agencies were reported recently by C. M. Evans, FSA regional director (for Texas and Oklahoma), says special correspondence in the San Antonio Express. Mr. Evans reviewed the work of his organization during its first five years. These "poor credit risks" are not only repaying their loans, but they are also investing their money in more and better livestock, equipment and houses, Evans said, and putting less of it into purchase of food. The average Texas family financed and supervised by FSA grew \$263 worth of food at home last year, compared with \$131 worth the year before they came into the FSA program, Evans' report showed. A collection record of 100 percent has been made in that section of the FSA program which involves loans to selected tenants with which to purchase and improve farms. Not one delinquency has been reported among the 508 former tenants in Texas who have become owners of their farms under this program, which was begun three years ago. Texas loans closed in the past few months or to be closed by the end of the fiscal year total 517, bringing to 1,023 the number of farms bought under this program in Texas since passage of the Bankhead-Jones Act in 1937. (PPS 316.)



Cotton                    "The Memphis cotton-stamp experiment will be watched  
Stamps                   with interest all over the country and especially in the  
                         south," an Atlanta Constitution editorial says in part.  
"If it proves satisfactory there, it will be extended to other cities  
and it is possible that, ultimately, it may bring about an appreciable  
reduction in that troublous cotton surplus. In any event, it should  
contribute to a bridging of that distribution gap between the surplusage  
of natural wealth and productivity in the United States, and the mil-  
lions of unfortunates who, in the past, have been forced to undergo  
serious deprivations of the essentials of life. After all, there is no  
more inexplicable problem or condition, in a supposedly civilized  
America, than ~~that~~ surplus products should constitute a problem on the  
one hand, with hungry and ill-clad people an equal problem on the other."  
(PPS 317.)

Stamps for               Consolidation of the relief distribution of textiles  
Textiles               into the hands of one agency, through wider application  
                         of the stamp plan, and appropriation of WPA funds to the  
cotton stamp plan were recommended recently by Samuel C. Lamport head  
of a manufacturing company and one of the original sponsors of the ex-  
tension of the food-stamp plan to cottons. He said the present system  
under which cotton textiles are handled by WPA sewing rooms, by the  
Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation and the Federal Surplus Relief  
Corporation results in waste of public funds, reduces the volume of  
goods reaching the needy and falls short of providing the impetus to the  
cotton goods and raw cotton markets that could be achieved through a  
unified system. (New York Times.)

"Bawi"                   Mississippi's "Bawi" ("Balance Agriculture With  
                         Industry") will die by legislative decree June 1, says  
Business Week (April 13). The Mississippi industrial act which brought  
"Bawi" into being was passed in 1936. After the first 31 months of  
operation, the commission administering the law reported that it had  
brought 10 new industries into the state, with jobs for 4,000 workers  
and an annual payroll of \$4,000,000.

Irrigation              The irrigation water supply in over half the 11  
Water Supply           Western States will be below normal during the growing  
                         season and in some States the supply will be lowest  
in years, the SCS announced in making public the results of the final  
snow surveys in the Cascades, Sierras and Rocky Mountains. Many of  
the rivers traversing the high plains region have their source in the  
snow pack of the Rockies.

R. R. Farrar            R. R. Farrar, B.D.I. has been appointed to represent  
Appointed              the Bureau in its cooperative program with the Ohio Ex-  
                         tension Service to improve the quality of Ohio Swiss  
cheese. He will succeed R. E. Hardell, who resigned recently. Mr. Far-  
rar will have headquarters at Sugarcreek.



Walter-Logan Bill Comment "The Walter-Logan bill, which is being debated in the House, has been properly singled out as one of the most important pieces of legislation pending before Congress," says an editorial in the Washington Post. "It would affect more than 100 Federal agencies and bureaus. More important, it would have a vital bearing upon the rights of citizens who come into controversy with those agencies.....The House Judiciary Committee report approving the measure expresses doubt whether 'there has been legislation proposed in a century which has had more extended and careful study than that given to this bill.' It is the product of more than three years of work by a special committee of the American Bar Association and carries the indorsement of many organizations of both lawyers and laymen.

"The simple purpose of the bill is to define more clearly the rights of the individual in dealing with the Government.....For example, there is no uniform requirement that all rules and regulations set up by governmental agencies be published. Citizens may be prosecuted for violation of rules they have never heard of and which they could not even find in print. The Walter-Logan bill would require publication of such regulations in the Federal Register before they go into effect. Interested citizens would have an opportunity, moreover, to express their views as to what regulations would be proper and desirable. The bill would require all Federal administrative agencies to conduct public hearings before formulating their rules and regulations.....Some provisions of the bill may be found to be unwise. But the principle on which it rests is basically sound....."

An editorial in the New York Times, commenting on the same bill, says "in its potential results if it should become law, the bill is the most important single measure considered in the present session of Congress."

Forest Farming E. N. Cooper of the Forest Service recently assumed his new duties as forester of the new forest farming project in Atkinson County (Ga.), says a report in the Atlanta Constitution. The project is designed to help farmers learn how to grow trees as a money crop and to show the many ways in which a forest tract on the farm can benefit the owner. The Atkinson county forest farm is one of the first in the south to be set up under the provisions of the Norris-Doxey act. The program calls for reforestation when needed, cutting plans for existing woodlands and marketing assistance, as well as protection of forest areas from damage by fire, grazing and diseases. Production and distribution of nursery stock for reforestation will be handled by the Georgia Division of Forestry. Other cooperating agencies are the Georgia Extension Service and the Soil Conservation Service. (PPS 319.)

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# DAILY DIGEST

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Section 1

April 18, 1940.

## ECONOMICS

### FORECAST

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics predicted yesterday an improvement in general economic conditions by summer. In a statement the bureau noted that the sharp winter down swing in industrial production had leveled off.

The Federal Reserve Board concurred with an announcement that the industrial activity rate of decline had slowed down in March and that there was "little further decrease" in the first half of April. The seasonally adjusted Index of Industrial Production was 103 for March, the board said, compared with the record high of 128 in December, 109 in February and 98 in March, 1939.

The economics bureau said that its prediction of business betterment was supported by "signs of better demand for steel and textiles than since last fall, reviving interest in home building and an increase in industrial exports relative to production." (A.P.)

## BRITISH

### TEXTILES

British home consumption of cotton, rayon and linen was slashed yesterday, says a London wireless to the New York Times. By order of the Board of Trade under the Defense Regulations domestic supplies of cotton and rayon goods are to be cut down to 75 percent of the pre-war quantities while linen goods and products are restricted to 25 percent of the quantities formerly available. Leslie Burgin, Minister of Supply, also announced a temporary prohibition on the placing of new orders for cotton yard and other orders to meet the export needs of the government.

## CHERRY TREES

Double cherry blossoms are expected to make their bow in East Potomac Park April 25-27, about 10 days behind the single blooms, Capital Parks officials said yesterday. The trees bearing double blossoms line the park drive and are also on Hains Point.

**Electric Meter**                      With about 160,000 low-cost dwelling units under construction by local housing authorities all over the country, the United States Housing Authority faces numerous problems of keeping utility costs within the budgets of the low-income families destined to live in them. To solve them, a number of plans and appliances are being recommended to the local groups. Notable among the appliances is a color dial meter designed to give a tenant control over his consumption of electricity somewhat after the manner of the cyclometer recommended by the Rural Electrification Administration. Instead of showing the number of kilowatt-hours used, the round dial of the USHA meter is divided into four colors. To represent the amount of current allowed the tenant as a part of his rent during a three-months' period (each housing project buys current wholesale through a master meter to get the lowest rate possible), about half the circumference is green. When the meter's pointer leaves the green for a yellow segment, he knows he has used about 25¢ worth of excess current; gray represents further excess; red \$1. (Business Week, April 13.)

**Tobacco Marketing**              Complaints have been numerous in Maryland about the old State-warehouse system of marketing tobacco, says an editorial in the Baltimore Sun. "Buyers of tobacco have repeatedly said that they could not be sure of quality under such a system. They have objected to a selling procedure which forces them to buy whole hogsheads of tobacco at a time and on the basis of a single sample. They have argued that they much prefer the loose-leaf auction system, where tobacco is exposed to the view of the buyer and where he can see what he gets and pay accordingly.

"The loose-leaf system, which was inaugurated last year with the establishment of two new warehouses at Hughesville and Upper Marlboro, has had only a year of trial. To urge a return to the older methods of selling, about which so much complaint has been made, on the basis of a single year's experience with the newer method, implies an excess of conservatism. Moreover, it runs contrary to the sound merchandising principle that the customer is always right. This principle, which recognizes the necessity for the seller to accommodate himself in some degree at least to the needs and the desires of the buyer, may not be as applicable to the tobacco markets as it is to the retail trade, but it is nevertheless a matter the tobacco markets cannot entirely ignore." (PPS 323.)

**FSCC Field Appointments**              The Department has announced the appointment of Paul H. Jordan and Kris P. Bemis as regional directors of the FSCC in charge of the Food Stamp Plan in the Middle West and Northeast regions, respectively.



**Antioxidants**                      Reviewing ice cream research in the Ice Cream Trade in Ice Cream Journal (April), P. H. Tracy, technical editor, says "a product made from oat grain called avenex has recently been offered to the food industry for the purpose of preventing flavor changes that are due to oxidation. The effectiveness of this product as an antioxidant has been demonstrated by Peters and Musher and others in the treatment of such foods as lard, potato chips, peanuts, candy, coffee, corn oil, fish and fish oils. Studies conducted at the Illinois Experiment Station have shown the proper amount of avenex to use is about 0.5 percent. It should be added before pasteurization. The avenex increases the viscosity and improves the body of the ice cream so that in some cases the amount of serum solids or stabilizer may need to be reduced. The product also can be used to advantage in sherbets. Cream that is to be stored for use in ice cream is much likely to become tallowy if about 1.5 percent avenex is added previous to pasteurization at 170° F. The use of corn flour and concentrates of the water soluble constituents of oat and corn flour also have been studied and found effective as antioxidants....."

**Highway Service**                      "Highway users will be heartened to learn that the Indiana State Police are broadcasting up-to-the-minute information on road conditions, weather and other data affecting the movement of traffic," says an editorial in the Indiana Farmers Guide (April 6). "The reports which are being sent at 11 A.M. from station WPHE are relayed to outlying points immediately by five other state police stations. Farmers, truck drivers, bus operators and ordinary motorists should appreciate this service. Many times a trip would be planned or a proposed journey called off if last-minute information on weather and road conditions were available. Who knows how many accidents and losses of life could be averted by heeding such reports?"

**Frozen Food Distribution**                      The latest wrinkle in frozen food distribution -- door-to-door selling from refrigerated trucks -- is being tried out in Ardmore, a suburb of Philadelphia, says an article in Business Week (April 13). Special efforts are being made to sell complete dinners. Here is a current 89¢ dinner: "one lb. filet of sole, one package of asparagus, and one package each of peas, corn, and asparagus, with string beans or spinach as alternates." A complete line of sea foods, meats, poultry, vegetables, fruits, fruit juices, and ice cream is carried in zero compartments of the trucks. Each truck has a compartment of slightly higher temperature for such items as bacon, ham, sausage, and tarter sauce.

**Argentine Corn Crop**                      The first official estimate of the 1939-40 Argentine corn crop, now being harvested, anticipates a total yield of 434,000,000 bushels, according to the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations.



**Soil Erosion in Vineyards** Soil erosion in the vineyards of the Finger Lakes district of New York is the subject of an article in American Fruit Grower, for April. The article says in part: "That this soil loss problem is not new is graphically evident by the section's raw gullies, rotting posts, sagging vines, rampant growth of wild brambles, sumac and weeds; signs of the discarding of portions of vineyards when the soil washed down to the lakes. Over the past 25 years actually only a small proportion of the vineyard acreage has been abandoned, but a survey by the Soil Conservation Service reveals that nearly two-thirds of the hillside vineyards are seriously affected by erosion, to the extent that precautions on the part of growers will be a necessity if the productivity of their vineyards is to be maintained. These growers realize, too, that they would have a hard time duplicating anywhere else the climate and the light fertile soils of their section and produce the type and quality of fruit they are proud of today.....Growers are aware of their predicament, so much so that more than 500 of them recently signed a petition asking the Soil Conservation Service for help to make the change to a soil conservation system of grape culture....."

**Sterling Exchange.** The Government has acted to protect the national economy from possible adverse effects from the use of the unofficial sterling exchange rate in New York for purposes of collection of duties on exports from Great Britain. The United States now will recognize only the official rate. The announcement came as result of a conference of Secretary Hull with Secretary Morgenthau, Secretary Wallace, and Attorney General Jackson. The treasury issued instructions to customs collectors to disregard the relatively low unofficial sterling rate, which recently has hovered around \$3.50 to the pound, and to use only the official British rate of \$4.03 $\frac{1}{2}$  for customs purposes. Only the official rates will be used also in the case of the Canadian dollar, the New Foundland dollar, and the Australian pound. (New York Times.)

**Rumanian Export Ban** Rumania has banned temporarily all exports of wheat to Germany and other foreign buyers and at the same time strengthened her Danube River police to protect the Reich's vital shipping from any possible attempt at sabotage, says an Associated Press report from Bucharest. Officials said wheat exports would be discontinued at least until after this year's harvest, which, it was estimated, would be insufficient to meet Rumania's own needs.

**Wheat & Flour Exports** The Department has announced contracts during the period July 1, 1939 -- April 10, 1940, for the exportation of 30,736,371 bushels of wheat and wheat in the form of flour under its wheat and flour export programs.



# DAILY DIGEST

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Section 1

April 19, 1940.

## WALTER-LOGAN MEASURE

The House yesterday passed by 279 to 97 the Logan-Walter bill to subject rulings and orders of the 130 Federal bureaus and agencies to court review, says a report in the New York Times. The measure covered some of the ground that sponsors of amendments to the Wages and Hours Act and the National Labor Relations Act hope to change. These amendments will be considered later by the House, probably next week.

## CIVIL SERVICE APPEAL BILLS

The House Civil Service Committee yesterday closed its open hearings on nine bills proposing various forms of courts or boards of appeal for civil service employees on suspensions or dismissals from the Government service. Harry B. Mitchell, chairman of the Civil Service Commission, and Ismar Baruch, chief of the Classification Division and general counsel, the only witnesses yesterday, opposed proposals for an independent boards of appeals such as were recommended by more than a score of witnesses representing various organizations of Government employees. (Washington Star.)

## CAPITAL PARK PLANNING

Development of the George Washington Memorial Parkway and zoning protection for the Mount Vernon Memorial Highway were among the projects furthered by action of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission yesterday, says the Washington Post. The commission approved contracts for acquisition of 106 lots and small parcels of land between the District of Columbia and Great Falls, all on the Maryland side, in connection with the memorial parkway.

## PATMAN BILL OPPOSED

Two labor leaders and representatives of a number of vegetable and fruit growers told a House subcommittee yesterday that chain stores had helped to broaden markets for goods and distribute surpluses. They testified at a Ways and Means subcommittee hearing, each in opposition to the Patman bill for Federal taxes on chain stores. (A.P.)

100 Soybean  
Products

An exhibit showing more than 100 products made from one farm crop suggests a good method of avoiding over-production. Such an exhibit was seen by farmers and others who visited the soybean display shown in St. Joseph (Missouri) recently. Prepared by the Agricultural Department of the Pennsylvania Railroad, and shown with cooperation of the Dannen Milling Company, even the panels used in this exhibit were made from plywood glued together with soybean blue. All the paints and varnishes going into the preparation of the exhibit contained soybean oil. Printer's ink, foods, feed, candies, washable wallpaper, linoleum, synthetic wool, and machine cores were among the many industrial uses displayed. (Missouri Ruralist, April 13.)

Migration  
of Farmers

"T. Roy Reid, regional FSA director in Arkansas, has done the farm families of that state a distinct service by urging them to build their futures in their home state rather than in fields afar where only uncertainty and disillusionment await," says an editorial in the Memphis Commercial Appeal. "He cites as a warning and an example the unhappy plight of those who have moved to California, Arizona, Oregon, Washington and Idaho during recent years. He speaks a shocking truth when he says that most have lost their farms as a result of depression or drouth, or were pushed off the land, if they were tenants, by increased use of machinery.

"Nor does he exaggerate when he says that misery has resulted for the most and that those who went West so enthusiastically and so hopefully now constitute grave social and economic problems for the states into which they migrated. Mr. Reid's warning should be taken to heart by the farm families of the entire South....." (PPS 331.)

Beet Field  
Child Labor

The Children's Bureau has issued a report of a study of 946 sugar beet laborers and their families, 41 percent of them migrants, says Survey Midmonthly (April). The families interviewed by the investigators were performing hand labor in sugar beet fields scattered over five states, Michigan, Minnesota, Colorado, Nebraska and Montana. Of the 2014 school-age children, 670 were reported as working in the beet fields. In spite of a maximum work day of eight hours established under the production-adjustment contracts then in force, more than half the children customarily worked longer; during the beet-thinning season more than a fourth worked twelve hours or more a day. Their field work interfered with schooling; about a third of the children were being kept out of school until the end of the beet harvest, and about a tenth did not expect to enroll in school at all that year.



Colchicine                      Profound sex changes in plants can be made by  
Research                      means of colchicine, it was reported recently to the  
                                 American Philosophical Society by Drs. H. E. Warnke  
and A. F. Blakeslee of the Carnegie Institution of Washington. The  
plant used by the two researchers was *Melandrium dioicum*. In nature,  
this plant bears male and female flowers on separate plants, instead  
of having male and female (pollen and seed-producing) parts in the  
same flowers. Sex in *Melandrium*, is linked up with two particular  
chromosomes, known as X and Y. A plant with the combination XY is  
male, or pollen-producing. One with the combination XX is a female,  
or seed-bearing. By treatment with colchicine, new strains of  
*Melandrium*, with double the usual chromosome numbers, have been pro-  
duced. Sex chromosome combinations are thus possible in the combina-  
tions XXXX, XXYY and XXXY. XXXX plants are wholly female, XXYY plants  
wholly male. XXXY plants are male but have a touch of female about  
them, being able to produce a few seeds when self-fertilized. From  
seeds produced by this self-fertilization new plants have been produced  
that have two-sexed flowers like those found in the majority of  
familiar forms, able both to produce pollen and to bear seed. (Science  
Service.)

Ramspeck                      Two Government works chiefs have asked the Senate  
Bill Hearing                   Civil Service Committee to open the way for several  
                                 thousand workers to enter civil service, said the  
Federal Diary of the Washington Post. Col. F. C. Harrington, WPA ad-  
ministrator, said that the threat to bar employees of his organization  
from the benefits of the proposed Ramspeck bill had injured morale.  
Col. E. W. Clark, head of the Public Works Administration, asked that  
some way be found to extend Civil Service to more than 5,000 persons  
furloughed from the agency since last July, and improve their chance  
of finding other Government jobs. On the other hand, Senator Schwartz  
of Wyoming, testified that employees of the Tennessee Valley Authority  
should be "specifically exempted" from the Ramspeck bill.

Pellagra                      Fatalities from pellagra have dropped 65 percent  
Campaign                      since 1928, the year the American Red Cross began its  
                                 campaign in the South for the prevention of this  
disease of nutritional starvation. In that year, the deathrate from  
the disease in thirteen southern states was 22 per 100,000 persons.  
For each death there were estimated to be thirty-five other pellagrins.  
Today the deathrate is less than 8 per 100,000. The conduct of com-  
munity nutrition courses was also part of the campaign. The recent  
discovery of nicotinic acid as a specific in the cure of the disease  
has opened up the program to include the pellagra sufferer as well as  
the potential victim. Already the ARC is cooperating in some southern  
communities in operating clinics where the medicine is administered.  
(Survey Midmonthly, April.)

Eggs in Stamp Plan      "According to a survey reported in the March issue of Poultry Tribune, 560 percent increase in egg consumption by relief families was reported in Springfield, Ill., where the stamp plan was put into use in October, 1939," says the National Grocers' Bulletin (April). "The report says that families interviewed said they used an average of 1.1 eggs per person each week, or 57 eggs per year before the stamps were made available, but now use an average of 6.2 eggs per person, or approximately 323 per person annually. All the families surveyed in Springfield used blue stamps to buy some eggs, ranging from a low of 10 percent of the stamps up to one family which reported they used 'nearly all' of their blue stamps to buy eggs....."

"The facts about this one commodity -- eggs -- may be almost duplicated on certain other items listed as surplus by the Department of Agriculture, and which are purchasable only with blue stamps. This is reported here, merely to point out to both grocers and agriculture that the food stamp plan is definitely accomplishing all three of its original purposes -- namely, distributing agricultural surpluses, giving relief clients more food and a more balanced diet, and sending the relief business back through regular channels of distribution....." (PPS 332.)

Exports Up 30 Percent      America's war-stimulated foreign trade sent export figures climbing again in March to \$344,000,000 -- 30 percent above a year ago. The March total was about \$6,000,000 over February figures, but still about \$14,000,000 under the December-January level. Secretary of Commerce Hopkins attributed the increase to larger sales of machinery, trucks, iron and steel products, other metals, chemicals and airplanes. Sales of cotton, meat, lard, corn and fruit, however, dropped off slightly. (A.P.)

Packaged By Science      "The package in which a product is sold becomes more and more important," says Scientific American (May). "Designers have tackled this problem with a vast amount of research in the effort to provide more attractive packages, packages that are more easily opened, and others that provide combinations of advantages not hitherto available. Sixty prize-winning packages were chosen from more than 30,000 entered in the 1939 All-America Package Competition. Some of them are startling innovations. Offhand, one might imagine all these developments simply the result of certain ingenuity displayed by the sales force, but their ingenuity goes deep into the processes of scientific research. None of them would be possible were it not that research departments have developed, for example, new films resistant to pickle vinegar, newer alloys resistant to fluids used in medical dressings, and new processes for handling and improving upon the uses of these and many other products."



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Vol. LXXVII, No. 16

Section 1

April 22, 1940.

## GALLUP POLLS

### MID-WEST

### FARMERS

The Gallup Poll of April 21 lists the farmers of the Middle West as being 57 percent in favor of the Republicans and 43 percent in favor of the Democrats in the coming Presidential election. In small towns and cities, the Democrats hold the lead with 54 percent against the Republican 46 percent. (Washington Post.)

## FOOD TRADE

### QUIZ RUMORED

"Apprehension is expressed in some sections of the food industry over reported plans by Assistant Attorney-General Arnold to investigate trade practices of trade associations and manufacturers," according to the New York Journal of Commerce, April 22. "Buying methods pursued by chain and independent distributors are scheduled for inquiry also."

## N.Y. EXPECTS

### FOOD STAMPS

"With the extension of the Federal food stamp program in New York City, by July 1, contemplated agents of the FSOC are surveying Brooklyn and the Bronx with the object of choosing one or the other as the starting point of the experiment here, Philip F. Maguire, vice president of the corporation disclosed yesterday.

"Although formal approval of Mayor La Guardia's plea for introduction of the stamp plan in a single borough will be deferred until the investigation is completed, Mr. Maguire expressed confidence that all obstacles would be ironed out and the program put into operation here in two months." (New York Times.)

## WAR RAISES

### WHEAT PRICE

The German invasion of Denmark and Norway and the possibility of a greatly reduced yield this season account for the rapid upward move of wheat prices last week, according to the New York Times. The new-crop months showed an advance of about nine cents a bushel from the low point of April eighth.

While experts declare that there is a surplus of wheat in Canada, Australia and Argentina, it is believed that the public has suddenly become war-minded and has taken the buying side of wheat and other grains on a large scale.

**"Stamping"  
Out Hunger**

Under the title, "'Stamping' Out Hunger," Jane Whitbread, in The Nation for April 20, says that "wholesale acclaim has greeted the Food-Stamp Plan of the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation"....."The authorities are making no prophecies," she says, "about how soon the plan may affect surpluses sufficiently to raise prices. Logically, higher prices would put the 'protective' foods out of reach of relief families and block the plan's aim of combating malnutrition among this group. However, such a development is a very remote possibility. Should it materialize, the FSCC would probably try to replace the 'protective' foods whose prices had skyrocketed by others of similar nutritive value; for example, cheese might replace eggs. The theory is also advanced that increased demand for blue-stamp products might lead farmers to produce more of them. In taking this step they would switch from the production of cotton and wheat. If the plan is influential in bringing about a substantial shift in the crops that farmers plant, this would seem to be its greatest long-term contribution to the American economy.

"Although all statements are hedged round with qualifications, the FSCC's preliminary studies do show that increases in the food expenditures of the lower third of the people will mean increased consumption of butter, eggs, fruit, vegetables, and meat rather than of corn and flour. No one is more aware than the plan's authors of the tremendous problems connected with any effort to move surpluses and raise farm prices. The FSCC stresses the fact that the stamp plan is not a substitute for the direct-purchase-and-distribution method, which this year will move some \$30,000,000 worth of surplus commodities, but is designed to supplement it. With relief eligibles participating 100 percent it will add \$100,000,000 to the nation's total food outlay of some \$15,000,000,000."

This issue of The Nation also contains an item on Friends of the Land.

**Short Wave**

Ultra-short radio waves have been used to kill Kills Trichinae the troublesome parasites that cause trichinosis.

This discovery was reported at the University of Buffalo before the New York section of the American Physical Society. The new finding, which may lead to a practical way of killing the parasites in pork at the packing house was made in experiments reported by Prof. Fred J. Holl of the Department of Biology and Professor L. Grant Hector of the Physics Department. At present the method is much too costly for commercial application. (Science Service.)



Forestry  
Literature

"The British Imperial Forestry Bureau, recently established by the Executive Council of the Imperial Agricultural Bureaus, should meet a long-felt want," says the April Journal of the South African Forestry Association (a new publication). "The usefulness of the literature on forestry that issues annually in many languages from the press of all countries has hitherto been defeated by its very volume. In the January issue of the Current Monthly Record of Forestry Literature, the first to be put out under the aegis of the bureau, the 152 titles recorded form merely a selection of what was actually available during the period. It will be the function of the bureau to digest this huge volume, and present its more important contents in assimilable form for the information of those engaged in the practice or study of forestry....."

Goat's vs.  
Cow's Milk

"Recent Investigations of Goat's Milk" is the title of an article by A. K. Besley, of the Bureau of Animal Industry, appearing in American Journal of Public Health for February. Dr. Besley says in part: "Among the milk goats in this country the Toggenburg and Saanen breeds are the most numerous. In milk production and percentage of butter fat they occupy the same relative position among milk goat breeds as do the Holstein cows among the dairy breeds.....Goat's milk for these studies was supplied by the bureau's milk goat herd, located at Beltsville, Md., which consisted of both purebred and high grade does, in approximately equal numbers of the Toggenburg and Saanen breeds. The cow's milk was furnished by a nearby pedigreed Holstein herd.....Preliminary investigation failed to reveal differences in the chemical composition between the milk of the two goat breeds, consequently in this study their milk was pooled."

In conclusion, Dr. Besley says: "Milk from the Toggenburg and Saanen breeds of goats has been found to be a healthful, nutritious food, not unlike the milk from the Holstein breed of cows in general composition and nutritive value. The goat's milk studied had an average curd milk, possessing values indicating a curd 31 percent softer than that of the milk from Holstein cows. A small-sized fat globule of Holstein milk appeared as another outstanding species difference between the two milks. The apparent ability of goats to produce milk exceptionally low in bacterial numbers operates in its favor when milks are appraised on the basis of their microbial content."

Milk on  
Farms

Milk production on farms in March 1940, estimated at 9.01 billion pounds, was 1.22 billion pounds larger than in February and exceeded production in March a year ago by about 2 percent, the AMS states. About 1 percent more milk cows were on farms than a year earlier and milk production per cow continued at a relatively high level.



**Photoperiods**      An article by James Bonner, California Institute of Technology, on "Experiments on Photoperiod in Relation to the Vegetative Growth of Plants" (Plant Physiology, April) says: "It has long been known that relative length of day and night effects the vegetative as well as the reproductive activity of plants. Since the appearance of the paper of Garner and Allard which first dealt with this subject, abundant factual material has accumulated relating to the influence of photoperiod on such varied processes as shoot elongation, leaf size, accumulation of dry weight and root growth. It has been frequently, although not invariably, found that vegetative growth as measured by one or more of these criteria, is greater in long days than in short days irrespective of the reproductive behavior of the species in question....."

A summary of the article says: "Plants of *Xanthium*, *Brassica alba*, *Brassica nigra*, *Cosmos*, and *Lycopersicum* all contain more vitamin B<sub>1</sub> when grown under conditions of long photoperiod (18 hours) than when grown under conditions of short photoperiod (9 hours). *Xanthium* and *Brassica* respond to additions of vitamin B<sub>1</sub> more strikingly under the conditions of short photoperiod than under those of long photoperiod. It is suggested that the effect of photoperiod on the vegetative growth of plants may be mediated by the effect of photoperiod upon the production, not only of vitamin B<sub>1</sub>, but also on the production of other growth factors."

**Pressure Cooker**      The many advantages of pressure cooking in an aluminum vessel have been incorporated into a standard aluminum sauce-pan. Made in four sizes from one to four quarts, the pressure cooker cooks foods in a fraction of the time ordinarily required. It enables the housewife to use cheaper cuts of meat satisfactorily, and boasts the well-known good qualities of aluminum cooking utensils. Meats and vegetables retain their color and vitamin content when cooked under pressure. The new pressure kettle has no hold-down bolts, gages, and extraneous rigging, yet holds a pressure of 15 pounds safely. A thin, strong metal cover is inserted within the lips of the kettle, and is held down by an ingenious and easy-to-fasten hook. As steam pressure is built up in the kettle, the cover is held down more tightly, and pressure-cooking takes place. (Scientific American, May.)

**Cotton Futures**      A new monthly report, "Trade in Cotton Futures," is announced by Doctor Duvel, Chief of C.E.A. This report will summarize the volume of trading, amount of open contracts, futures prices and other facts relating to cotton futures markets. Copies may be obtained from the C.E.A. in Washington or the field.



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Section 1

April 23, 1940.

## 7 ARRESTED FOR FOOD STAMP VIOLATION

According to the Birmingham News of April 21, criminal prosecutions for alleged fraudulent use of federal food stamps were instituted in Birmingham on Saturday with the arrest of four men and three women. All of them were charged with violating Section 80, Title 18 of the U. S. Code in "falsifying, concealing and covering up by trick" the illegal purchase of stamps and goods. It was said that they might also be charged with presenting false claims to the government and with conspiracy. Conviction on these three charges would subject each of the defendants to maximum fines of \$30,000, or thirty years in federal penitentiary. The evidence against the defendants was obtained by Clyde and Minard T. Miller, two special investigators for the USDA.

## DAIRY PRODUCTS EXPORTS RISE

"A substantial increase in exports of dairy products to eleven countries which have granted the United States concessions in trade agreements was reported today by the Tariff Commission." According to the commission, "dairy products exported to countries which granted tariff concessions increased from \$1,673,000 in 1938 to \$2,815,000 in 1939, while exports to countries which have not granted concessions declined from \$4,411,000 to \$4,321,000. Total dairy exports to all countries in 1939 amounted to \$7,136,000 against \$6,084,000 in 1938." (New York Times--April 23.)

## HOUSE TO PROBE MIGRANTS' FLIGHT

"The House of Representatives voted (on Monday) to assign a special investigating panel to probe the plight of the American migrant and to seek remedies for conditions resulting from the conversion of millions of citizens -- victims of drought, depression and mechanized farming -- into 'roadside populations.' Republican leaders joined in the majority to effect prompt adoption of legislative authority, a resolution introduced by Representative Tolan (Cal.) and sponsored by his entire State delegation. Under the resolution, a committee of five House members will be selected by the Speaker to pursue investigation through the summer and fall, and make its Legislative recommendations to the new Congress as it arrives in January," says the Baltimore Sun (April 23).

Good Color in Apples                    R. B. Dustman and I. J. Duncan, of the West Virginia Experiment Station, in an article, "Effect of Certain Thiocyanate Sprays on Foliage and Fruit in Apples," appearing in Plant Physiology (April) summarize studies at the station as follows: "It has been found that soluble thiocyanates, particularly inorganic thiocyanates, used as a spray on apples during the growing season, exert a pronounced physiological effect on both foliage and fruit as follows: In the foliage the leaves are subjected to spray burn and to a chlorotic condition arising from the effect of the chemical on the green coloring matter of the plant. In the fruit the amount of red color occurring normally tends to be increased and the green ground-color tends to be reduced or replaced by varying shades of yellow and yellow green."

REA-Financed Electric Cooperatives                    "Lately critics of the Rural Electrification Administration have charged that the cooperatives it has financed have not earned the interest on their loans," says a Dallas Morning News editorial in the Photostat Press Service (No. 336). "But a public statement by Harry Slattery, REA administrator shows that, save in exceptional cases, this is untrue. Of nearly 700 systems financed by the REA, relatively few are in arrears on their payments. Delays have been granted in some instances, but the REA has had no occasion to foreclose or to charge off any loan. Compared with arrears totaling \$56,765, the REA has received a much larger sum in excess payments from other cooperatives whose operating revenues have allowed them to pay off their loans ahead of schedule. These excess payments thus far total \$140,643.

"In time, of course, the REA probably will have a few defaults. If it did not, its experience would run counter to that of all other lending agencies, private as well as public. But the REA's present status gives little ground for the blasts that have been made against it. Present indications are that taxpayers will not be called on to shoulder much of the cost of this highly useful agency that is lightening the formerly backbreaking work of the farm and the farm home."

State-Wide Food Stamps Proposed                    Proposal that the federal stamp plan for distributing surplus commodities be extended to the entire state of Minnesota was made recently to the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation by Governor Stassen and W. W. Finke, state social welfare director, says a Duluth News Tribune report in the Photostat Press Service (No. 338). If the plan should be approved Minnesota would be the first to put the system into effect on a state-wide basis. Governor Stassen described it as "a sound approach to the problems of using surplus commodities and helping out the food budgets of those in need."



**Rennet  
Supply**

As a result of the war conditions, specialists of the Bureau of Animal Industry believe that the United States is unlikely to receive calf rennets from some European countries in the same volume as formerly. Rennets, as the term is used commercially, are calf stomachs from which extracts of rennet, or rennin, is prepared. Since this product is used generally in the manufacture of cheese, officials of the Bureau suggest that concerns or persons that slaughter young calves may add to their returns by saving calf stomachs, thereby also helping to insure an adequate supply of rennin for the cheese-making industry.

Rennets from calves that have been fed chiefly on milk are the most valuable for preparing the rennet extract. Those from calves fed on milk and mixed feeds are less valuable, and those from calves fed on mixed feed and grass are least valuable. Prices normally range from about 4 to 8 cents each, the price depending on the age of the calf and the manner in which it has been fed. These prices, however, are subject to change under the influence of supply and demand and the relative number of rennets in the higher and lower grades.

**Real Estate  
Values**

An increase of about 1 percent in the average of farm real estate values the country over during the 12 months ended March 1, 1940, is reported by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The preliminary index of average value per acre of farm real estate is 85, as compared with 84 in 1939, and with 85 in 1937 and 1938. The period 1912-14 equals 100. These figures show that as a national average, farm real estate values are approximately 15 percent below the pre-World War base period. The low point during the past decade was in 1933 when the average of values was 27 percent below the base period. Values increased about 16 percent during the next 4 years, and in the last 3 years have held at about 85 percent of the base period.

**Tobacco Seed  
Exportation**

The Senate recently passed a bill by Senator Byrd of Virginia prohibiting the exportation of American tobacco seed from the United States (except for experimental purposes), says a Richmond Times Dispatch report in the Photostat Press Service (No. 335). Senator Byrd said "the purpose of the bill is to preclude the foreign cultivation of American tobacco seed and plants which would lead to the destruction of American markets abroad for American, and particularly Virginia tobacco." A similar bill sponsored by Senator Byrd, passed by Congress last year, was vetoed by President Roosevelt.

**Siloing Aids Weed Control**      Seeds of most weeds die after a few weeks in the silo, according to T. E. Woodward of the Bureau of Dairy Industry. Mr. Woodward made this discovery in a side-line experiment while he was trying out different methods of making hay and grass silage. Thus, the advantage of "weed control" may be added to the many other advantages of siloing the hay crops, Woodward says. When a weedy crop is made into hay many weed seeds spread to the farm land in barnyard manure.

In making these experiments, Mr. Woodward buried 26 different kinds of seeds (common weeds and some farm crops) in separate bags in the silage while the silo was being filled. The seeds were buried at various depths, from 14 to 30 feet below the surface, and in silages of different moisture content. Over three years he used corn, alfalfa and grass-and-alfalfa silage, made with and without the addition of molasses. As the silage was fed out, the seeds were recovered and tested for germination along with duplicate samples he had kept in his office. Only three kinds -- bindweed, *Lespedeza sericea*, and American dragonhead nint -- showed any life after being buried in the silage.

**Southwest Freight Rate**      Recently the American Cotton Cooperative Association petitioned the officials of rail lines operating in the Southwest for a reduction in rates out of Oklahoma and West Texas to Texas ports. Truck traffic moved 47 percent of the 1939 crop to Texas ports this year, and at rates usually fifty cents to a dollar per bale cheaper than the rail rates. The aim of the Cotton Cooperatives was to reach an agreement on lower rail rates without the usual long-drawn out battle before the Interstate Commerce Commission. In an exhibit placed before the rail executives in Dallas, L. D. Estes, traffic manager of the American Cotton Cooperative Association, brought out that it costs over \$600,000 more to move three hundred thousand bales of cotton 300 miles in Texas than it did to move the same number of bales the same distance in the Mississippi Valley. The outcome of the conference was an announcement early in March that rate reductions, ranging from one cent per hundred to thirteen cents per hundred, on western cotton to Texas ports had been agreed to by a majority of the rail lines operating in the territory. Full approval of the new rates is expected shortly. (American Cotton Grower, April.)

**Soybean Plant**      The construction of a \$75,000 soybean mill in Emporia, Kansas, in time to handle this year's crop, is assured, says a report in the Emporia Gazette. Ted Lord, one of a group interested in this industry, said the cost of the plant was being underwritten by Kansas capital. Mr. Lord said plans were going forward to assure a large acreage of soybeans. The organizers he said, are to offer guaranteed price contracts for the purchase of the beans from the growers next fall. (PPS 337.)



# DAILY DIGEST

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Vol. LXXVII, No. 18

Section 1

April 24, 1940

## SENATE TO BEGIN FARM-LABOR QUIZ NEXT WEEK

Senator Robert M. LaFollette, Jr., of Wisconsin, chairman of the Senate Civil Liberties Committee, said today that "farming as a way of life is threatened" and announced that his committee would start hearings next week to explore a "developing farm labor problem."

"It is now apparent," he commented, "that the problem of civil liberties in California agriculture, which has suffered 187 strikes in the last seven years, signalizes the existence of a tragic underlying condition which must be remedied if farm laborers are to attain a full enjoyment of their civil rights."

"The subjects to be considered," he said, "would be the location and character of 'farm labor areas' other than California, conditions among migratory labor groups in those areas, the nature of industrialized agriculture and 'the trend away from the family farm.'"  
--(New York Herald-Tribune, April 24.)

## COTTON EXPORTS ABOUT 6,402,000 BALES

"Probable exports of cotton over the full season which ends July 31 inclusive of barter cotton are 6,402,000 bales according to a check-up made by the New York Cotton Exchange Service. The service reports export prospects have been reduced by about 200,000 bales from figures made up recently, owing to the fact that prospective shipments of barter cotton the remainder of the season are likely to drop from previous ideas since the British freight quota has been cut to 50,000 bales for May. Assumption is made that the quota will remain at 50,000 bales, 30,000 of private and 20,000 of barter cotton, in June and July." (New York Journal of Commerce, April 24.)

## BALTIMORE TO BEGIN FOOD STAMP PLAN

"The food stamp plan for relief clients will be put into operation in Baltimore next Wednesday," it was announced by Theodore J. Wilson, acting supervisor here for the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation, according to Baltimore Sun of April 24.

Simultaneously Thomas J. S. Waxter, director of the Municipal Department of Welfare asked the Board of Estimate for authority to establish a revolving fund of \$50,000 to be used in purchasing for distribution to relief clients.

Flynn Says                      John T. Flynn, in the New Republic April 22, says  
Soil Act                      that the increase in acres sown to feed and other food  
Beneficial                      crops has been the one important direct gain in the  
                                    Agricultural program of the New Deal. "This may be at-  
tributed to the soil-conservation act, which was passed after the old  
Agricultural Adjustment Act was held unconstitutional. You can get  
farm authorities here (in South Carolina) to admit that the knocking  
out of the original AAA act was the best thing that happened to the  
program...Instead of the invalidation of that act by the court being a  
great disaster, it was a boon to the New Deal.....

"The increase in feed and food crops has been a definite gain to  
the state and its farms. For instance, one of these crops is wheat.  
This state produced about 200,000 bushels of wheat a year, Now it pro-  
duces about 2,000,000.

"Here are gains which form no deliberate part of the program,  
which came into it as it went along and which, in some measure,  
ameliorate the condition of the farmer. But so far as his cotton is  
concerned, he remains at the mercy of government bounty as completely  
as the day the program began."

Canada Bacon                      "Canada is fulfilling the bacon agreement entered  
Stocks Rise                      into with the United Kingdom last fall under the terms  
                                    of which up to 5,600,000 pounds per week were to be  
shipped, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports. Further evidence  
that Canada has ample supplies of pork products is shown by the cold  
storage statistics. In spite of the heavy shipments to the United  
Kingdom, pork stocks have continued to increase.....

"While supplies of bacon in the United Kingdom at the present  
time seem adequate, it is possible that within a few months increased  
imports from other sources may be necessary.

"The future of Denmark as a bacon producing region while under  
German control is not very bright. The importation of feeds from  
overseas countries will be cut off and a considerable decline in hog  
production will be likely.

"Canadian exports of bacon and ham to the United Kingdom have  
increased very materially during the first three months of 1940, as  
compared with the same period of 1939." (New York Journal of Com-  
merce, April 23.)

Implement                      "Exports of farm machinery from the United States  
Exports Up                      in February were valued at \$4,496,638 compared with  
                                    \$3,870,648 in February 1939, an increase of 16 percent,  
according to the Machinery Division, Department of Commerce." (Farm  
Machinery & Equipment, April.)



## Rice Planting

## Shows Increase

"The new rice crop is now being planted in Louisiana and Texas and the fields are being prepared in Arkansas. Good progress has been made in spite of unseasonable cold and rains over the entire rice belt in Arkansas. The Government reports that intentions to plant indicate that in Texas there will be a three percent increase over last year, in Louisiana about two percent increase, and in Arkansas approximately the same acreage." (New York Journal of Commerce, April 23.)

## Pellagra and

Subsidies in  
Africa

Dr. Henry E. Sigerist, professor of the history of medicine at Johns Hopkins, learned, during a five-month tour of South Africa, that the pellagra death rate among the natives on the southern tip of Africa is appalling. Among infants, 400 out of every 1,000 die. Chances are 60 to 40 against a new born baby living to the age of 15, he said.

Doctor Sigerist also reported that it is cheaper to buy South African butter in London than in Capetown, since farming is subsidized by the government. "In practice, every farmer is broke," he said, "but with his subsidy he has the illusion that he is a free white man." (Baltimore Sun, April 23.)

## Chemurgy

## Takes Hold

This summer American women will cross cotton-meshed legs at drug store counters and dip cotton plastic spoons into cotton ice cream. The spoons are old stuff. David H. Young creator of dull high twist silk hosiery ten years ago, cooperated with the federal bureau of Home Economics and the Mercerizers Association of America last winter to develop a full fashioned sheer mesh stocking from cotton. Known as style No. 106 to the U. S. Department of Agriculture, it is as sheer and silky as other hose. National Cotton Council thinks that it may mean an increased home consumption of 100,000 bales a year without cutting heavily into other U. S. grown fabrics. Meanwhile a Dallas pastry cook named Prosper Ingels has started to market an ice cream made from cotton-seed meal and lint extract. (Farm Journal and the Farmer's Wife, May.)

## State May Get

## U. S. Funds

## For Camps

Possibility of getting federal funds to operate camps for migratory workmen in Michigan is being studied by the state social welfare department. Of primary concern is aid for the Haegerman lake and Alpena camps. A representative of the FSA discouraged government aid for these camps since they cater principally to unattached single men not necessarily employable. However, the camps might be changed to make them eligible for FSA contributions. Also involved are six other transient camps in Southern Michigan industrial centers. Another problem that might be solved if the FSA entered the picture is that of indigent Negro migrants. (Grand Rapids Press, April.)

After the War -----What? A summary appearing in the Agricultural Situation of April 1940, on the post-war effects on agriculture by D. F. Christy, Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, says in part: "It appears that United States agriculture exports are not likely to benefit materially after the war, that after the war we will face increasing competition from other agricultural exporting countries for a number of years, and that other countries will be faced with the problem of how to pay for needed imports. Such a situation might lead to a growing recognition of the need of a more equitable distribution of the world's raw material resources or more ready access to these raw materials by those countries most in need of them. It is possible that the present war may so change world opinion as to make possible a philosophy of 'give and take,' which is a necessary prerequisite for international cooperation."

Publishers Report Upturn Publishers, editors and business managers of newspapers of the United States and Canada here for the annual meetings of the Associated Press and the American Newspaper Publishers Association reported improved business and crop conditions. E. P. Adler of the Davenport (Iowa) Times said business conditions in his state were "pretty" good and farmer optimism is based on increased moisture for crops. Houston Harte of the San Angelo (Texas) Standard Times declared business was better in his state than it had been for years. "The livestock business is good," Harte added, "wool prices are pretty good and cattle and sheep prices are better than they have been." (New York Times, April 22.)

Shotwell Wants Liberal Trade Dr. James Shotwell, the Carnegie Endowment director of the division of economics and history, said in his current annual report, that liberal habits of trade must be restored if "the world is not to succumb to the cancer of war economy."

"We bury the world's gold instead of using it to strengthen liberal policies of defense against autachy," said Dr. Shotwell, "and thereby impair the reciprocal trade agreements program as an instrument of peace."

"In the present state of enlightenment we can only hope that the Kentucky burial ground of the world's gold will not be pointed out as a monument to a world economic order which had not taken sufficient thought for its own vitality and endurance." (New York Times, April 22.)

Possessions Buy More of U. S. United States possessions and territories purchased goods valued at \$235,000,000 from the mainland during 1939, an increase of \$8,000,000 over the previous year, the Interior Department reported April 21, according to the New York Journal of Commerce, April 22.

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# DAILY DIGEST

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Section 1

April 25, 1940.

WALLACE, BLACK "The House Agriculture Committee voted Wednesday to  
TO BE CALLED summon Secretary Wallace and Gov. A. G. Black, of the  
ABOUT LETTER FCA, to answer charges that their recent letter to 630,000  
land bank borrowers violated the laws against lobbying by  
Federal officials," according to the Washington Post, April 25.

"By a vote of 13 to 10, it was reported, the committee agreed to  
'invite' Wallace and Black to explain 'under what authority' they issued  
the memorandum of April 10. The memorandum mentioned no pending legisla-  
tion, but indorsed three major provisions of the Jones farm credit bill.

"A second point to be taken up with the officials, according to  
committee members, is a charge that AAA committeemen in the Middle West  
have been called to special meetings to receive 'instructions' on the  
Jones bill."

-----  
JONES ASKS Chairman Marvin Jones of the House Agricultural  
WPA FUNDS FOR Committee recommended, on Wednesday, the use of a con-  
STAMP PLAN siderable portion of WPA funds for the stamp plan, in  
order that this service might be greatly expanded, ac-  
cording to the New York Journal of Commerce, today.

Members of Congress, according to the Journal, have been literally  
besieged by civic bodies in their respective States and districts to  
use their influence with the Secretary of Agriculture to institute the  
plan in hundreds of other places where persons on relief need additional  
assistance. Cities are being added to the list to the extent that  
funds, made available to the Department of Agriculture for the removal  
of surpluses, permit.

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EXPECT BRITAIN "First break in the British tobacco embargo is ex-  
TO BREAK BAN pected this week with the release by Commodity Credit  
ON TOBACCO Corporation of a portion of flue-cured tobacco stored in  
this country on option to the British," says the New  
York Journal of Commerce, today.

"Ever since British buyers withdrew from the American tobacco  
markets, diplomatic negotiations have been proceeding behind the scenes  
to arrange some way to move the 175,000,000 pounds stored here. The  
shipment abroad this week covers the first request the corporation so  
far has received. Whether it is a good will gesture by the British or  
indicates a new policy of resuming the use of American tobacco is not  
known....While tobacco production this year will be sharply reduced  
through application of crop control, it is thought unlikely that the  
British will absorb their usual quota."

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Seeks Help for "There's talk around Washington about extension  
Farm Exports of credit to the Allies," says an editorial in the  
Farmers Guide (April 20). "Back of this whispering  
lies the assumption that eventually the Allies may be forced to cur-  
tail purchases from the United States unless things can be bought 'on  
the cuff.'

"Gossip goes on to imply that agriculture might be made a case  
favoring the extension of credits. That makes us ask why something  
can't be done right now to help agricultural exports. Why couldn't  
the powers-that-be make it mandatory that for every airplane bought  
the Allies would have to purchase so many units of agricultural  
products? In other words, why saddle agriculture with the responsi-  
bility of credit extension?"

Course in The College of Agriculture of Tennessee is offering  
Planning a special experimental course for teachers of vocational  
agriculture from July 1 to July 18. This course is a  
cooperative approach to agricultural planning for individual farms, and  
is a new type of approach to farm management planning in its larger as-  
pects. The course will be carried on cooperatively by a number of in-  
structors representing each of the subject-matter departments of the  
College of Agriculture. This method will make it possible to unify  
recommendations for agriculture and to see that these recommendations  
do not overlook the economic and social status of the persons living  
on the individual farm. This is the first attempt on this wide basis  
of having instructors from the several departments cooperate in offer-  
ing courses. (Better Farm Equipment and Methods, March-April.)

Liquid Liquid wood is the newest product of Canadian  
Wood chemical science. Prof. Harold Hibbert of McGill  
University described the new way of processing wood  
at the meeting of the American Chemical Society. One of the new  
liquid woods, Prof. Hibbert explained, "is so closely related to  
the raw material from which the synthetic fiber nylon is made that  
it should readily prove possible to obtain from it a new variety of  
this interesting fiber, the raw material being wood instead of coal."  
Liquid woods are made under high pressure by adding hydrogen to the  
molecules. Prof. Hibbert sees in his new liquid wood a way to  
utilize the tremendous masses of waste wood of the world. (Science  
Service.)

Diesel for A new 6-cylinder 100-hp diesel power unit, which  
Power Unit starts on gasoline and after a minute or less of opera-  
tion shifts to full diesel operation has been announced  
by a farm machinery company. This engine can be cranked by hand as  
easily as a gasoline engine of the same size. An inexpensive standard  
12-volt electric starting system may also be used to provide electric  
starting. (American City, April.)



Farmers Say "The Farmer Speaks" is a nation-wide, farm-to-farm  
Wallace Does survey of the opinions of 6,000,000 farmers on national  
A Good Job affairs. In Successful Farming, for May, the following  
questions and answers appear:

QUESTION: Do you think that Henry Wallace has done a good job or a  
poor job as Secretary of Agriculture?

	Good Job	Poor Job
All farmers. . . . .	73%	27%
Midwest farmers. . . . .	68%	32%
Other farmers. . . . .	75%	25%

QUESTION: Do you think that farmers would be better off, or not as  
well off, if the Republicans win the election this year?

	Better Off	Same	Not So Well Off
All farmers. . . . .	33%	33%	34%
Midwest farmers. . . . .	31%	37%	32%
Other farmers. . . . .	35%	30%	35%

QUESTION: Do you think that farmers have received too much financial  
help from the Government or not enough?

	Too Much	Enough	Not Enough
All farmers. . . . .	16%	48%	36%
Midwest farmers. . . . .	21%	53%	26%
Other farmers. . . . .	15%	45%	40%

Japan to Buy "Cable advices indicate conclusion of another agree-  
India Cotton ment between Japan and India whereby Japan will take  
Indian cotton to the extent of more than a million bales,  
and will sell Indian cotton goods in excess of 300 million yards," says  
an article in Cotton Digest (April). "This is another evidence of the  
efforts which are being made by other countries to enable them to cir-  
cumvent the necessity of purchasing American cotton except when abso-  
lutely necessary.....

"Again," the article continues, "this all comes back to a question  
of a high tariff system which this country has built up in the past, and  
which now is acting like a boomerang against our sales abroad.....Mean-  
while the cotton producers are finding it impossible to sell their  
products abroad, due primarily to the lack of the dollar exchange. While  
many other countries are in need of American cotton, admitted to be the  
finest cotton grown in the world, they are forced to turn to other coun-  
tries for supplies, and the American farmers are asked to accept doles  
instead of customers. There is something wrong with such a system, es-  
pecially in a country which is under control of a political party which  
has stood for open trade channels almost since the country began."

Technology                      "Technological advances have created and are still  
 Lessens Farm            creating unemployment in the farming industry and the  
 Employment            trend promises to continue, according to the testimony  
                          of farm experts before the Temporary National Economic  
 Committee Tuesday," says the New York Times. "In 1939, said Louis  
 H. Bean of the USDA, 32,000,000 persons living on farms in this country  
 were able to supply the needs of 50 to 70 percent more urban dwellers  
 than the same number of farm people supplied thirty years before.

"Not all of the increased farm productivity per unit of labor has  
 come from technological advance, Mr. Bean and other USDA experts testi-  
 fied. Improved meat in livestock breeds, farming practices, crop seeds  
 and labor efficiency have had their part. It was asserted that .....  
 undoubtedly a larger proportion (of farm population) were unemployed,  
 underemployed or economically underefficient than was the case thirty  
 years ago."

Leaders Say                      Chain store heads, meeting in Richmond Monday  
 Chain Stores            night, were given a glimpse of a program designed to  
 Help Farmers            develop the agricultural resources of the South and  
                          create a market for agriculture's surplus commodities,  
 says a report in the Richmond Times-Dispatch (April 23). Representatives  
 of the leading chain stores were shown pictures illustrating how the  
 chains came to the aid of agriculture by creating stable farm markets.

Thomas P. Thompson, of the Southeastern Chain Store Council, the  
 dispatch continues, asserted that "we have learned that the law of  
 supply and demand is a flexible law," and added that "chain stores have  
 learned to create new demands."

C. B. Denman of the National Association of Food Chains, said that  
 \$20,000,000 had been spent during the past four years in advertising  
 agricultural commodities. "Four years ago," he said, "sixty percent of  
 food advertising was devoted to manufactured products....Now sixty per-  
 cent of the advertising is devoted to agricultural commodities.

"A program designed to stabilize prices on farm products is good  
 chain store business and means greater percentage profits," he con-  
 cluded.

#### Recent Beet Labor Report Based on 1935 Data

An item on child labor in beet fields (in Daily Digest  
 for April 19) referred to a report by the Children's Bureau, mentioned  
 in the April Survey Midmonthly. While the report was issued only re-  
 cently, it covers data gathered in 1935. The present sugar act, which  
 makes restriction on child labor a condition of government payments to  
 producers, became effective in 1937.

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# DAILY DIGEST

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Section 1

April 26, 1940.

WALLACE APPROVES WAGE-HOUR LAW Secretary Wallace, in a speech over the National Radio Forum Monday night, criticized bills by Representatives North (D., N.J.) and Barden (D., N.C.), according to the Washington Star of April 23. "Mr. Wallace," says the Star, "objecting to suggestions for exempting farm operations beyond the first labor of producing crops, said: 'I think the wage-hour act is a decided benefit to farmers. Not all farmers, unfortunately, understand how the law works. Certain groups, apparently, have been able to convince some farmers that the wage-hour law will injure them.'"

-----  
WALLACE WANTS CO-OP UNIT "Secretary Wallace recommended Wednesday that Congress authorize creation of a division of co-operatives in the agriculture department to help promote the co-operative marketing and buying movement among farmers," according to the New York Herald-Tribune of April 25.

"Supporting, before a Senate agriculture subcommittee, a bill proposed by Senator Capper (R. Kans.) for such a division, the department head declared the 'co-operative way of doing things' was 'peculiarly appropriate' for the United States."

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FARM AID BILL MAY GO BACK TO HOUSE "A joint conference committee abandoned efforts Thursday to break a month's deadlock on the agricultural appropriations bill," according to the Washington Post, April 26. "It reported a hopeless disagreement on Senate additions of \$347,000,000 to the measure.

"Senator Russell (D., Ga.), one of those who have been working in an attempt to iron out Senate and House differences on what to include in the bill, said the effect of yesterday's action would be to send back, to the House, Senate amendments providing for \$212,000,000 in parity payments, \$85,000,000 for disposal of surplus farm products and \$50,000,000 for loans to farm tenants."

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Milk                                "A recent press release from the New York City  
Grades                               Board of Health explains in detail the reason which  
                                     prompted their recent decision to abolish the old milk  
grade designations (A and B) and after September 1, 1940, set up a  
single standard grade," says an editorial in the Holstein-Friesian  
World (April 13). "The compelling reason was that the implication of  
a second-rate product carried in the 'B' designation was not justified  
by the facts, under present conditions of handling and marketing. And  
that because of it, many families of limited means were paying the  
premium price for Grade A, even though they were forced thereby to use  
it in smaller amounts. The conclusion was reached, therefore, that  
with a single dependable grade of milk at a standard price, consumption  
would be increased to the benefit of all concerned.

"The new grade, which is as yet unnamed, will carry some improve-  
ments over present Grade B. Tentatively, the new grade will set up a  
bacteria limit of 150,000 per c.c. at country plants (400,000 in city  
plants) and 30,000 after pasteurization. This compares with the present  
Grade B limit of 200,000 per c.c., but the Department reports that about  
90 percent of the producers are already running regularly under 100,000  
per c.c. The conclusion, therefore, is that the new standard would not  
require any changes in present methods on most farms....."

British Hunt                        "Reduction of newspapers in Great Britain by one-  
Newsprint                            third of their normal size has been effected as a result  
Source                                of the stoppage of Baltic and Scandanavian pulp," says  
                                     the Chicago Tribune. "Meanwhile, H. W. Abbsi, county  
horticultural advisor of Cornwall, has started an investigation into  
the possibilities of growing mallow, from which excellent paper can be  
produced. The plant grows freely in a wild state on the Devon and  
Cornish cliffs. Ten years ago an international firm attempted to com-  
pete in the world market by producing paper from this source. The firm  
failed, owing to the cheap prices of the Scandanavian product, but at  
the present prices the business is said to be very profitable here  
(London)."

California                            The cattle population of California decreased about  
Decrease in                            three percent during 1939, according to the Los Angeles  
Cattle                                County Farm Bureau News for April. Cattle prices held  
                                     up well during the period, but range and feed conditions  
were generally poor. Cattle prices averaged an increase of eleven per-  
cent over 1938 and, except for 1937, were the best since 1930. The  
average per head value of cattle increased in January, 1940, and was at  
the highest level since 1931.



NLRB Holds Fruit Packers Not Farm Labor      "Arguments that persons working in a fruit packing house were agricultural laborers and hence excluded from the National Labor Relations Act, were rejected recently by the NLRB in rulings involving two California cases," according to the Baltimore Sun, yesterday. "The Labor Board asserted that the duties of the employees in question, 'like those of workers in other industrial plants,' were clearly not agricultural in nature, but were coordinated with the operation of machines which automatically process and handle the fruit."

Small Wheat Crop Seen in Argentina      Using as a basis the December Argentina wheat crop report, Harry N. Owen, in the St. Paul Farmer (April) says: "Argentina can be safely counted out as a price depressor this year. Its influence will all be the other way. It begins to be evident that the 1940 world wheat crop will be very much below that of last year, so the effect of the large carry-over August 1 on the price level will be offset to a considerable extent."

New Viruses Feed on Non-Living Juice      "A new step in the exploration of the baffling border zone between the living and the non-living was announced by Dr. L. O. Kunkel of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research at Princeton, N. J., at the National Academy of Sciences," according to Science Service. "He said that he had succeeded in isolating and cultivating a new group of viruses that do not require living tissues on which to feed. All species hitherto known require living tissues for their sustenance; they are parasites, causing such plant diseases as mosaic and curly-top, and animal diseases like hog-cholera, hoof and mouth disease, smallpox and yellow fever. The new viruses were discovered in tomato and tobacco plants afflicted with mosaic disease, and in a few apparently healthy plants. However, the fact remains that they can be cultivated in glass dishes and that they will feed and grow on a diet of sterile, non-living plant juice."

Uses of Maple Syrup      "About one-quarter of the entire output of maple syrup in New York and Vermont goes into treatment of tobacco to give it sweetness and flavor. About 10 percent of the crop is used at home, and about 40 percent sold for retail purposes. Geneva Experiment Station is working on a new maple jelly which may prove to open up larger markets for maple producers." (Dairyman's League News, April 23.)

Migrant Labor in Maryland      "Maryland needs the migratory workers to carry it through its harvests. Needing them, it can ill afford to disregard their side of the problem," the Baltimore Sun says in an article on Migratory Labor in Maryland, in which is cited some of the efforts of Government to deal with the migratory labor problem.

New Method                    "A new test determining whether a given sample of  
of Blood Test                blood came from a man or another animal and, if so,  
Tells Species                which animal species, was announced by Dr. M. H.

Jacobs of the University of Pennsylvania at the National Academy of Sciences," says Science Service. "This test can be used only with fresh normal blood. It would be useless with blood stains, Doctor Jacobs explained. The test is based on the apparently constant way in which certain substances penetrate the walls of red blood cells of different species of vertebrates when the acidity or alkalinity of the solution is systematically varied. Glycerol is a useful substance for detecting species difference in this way, but tests with this chemical take rather a long time. The tests can be made much faster, Doctor Jacobs discovered, with ethylene glycol.

"In the examination of approximately 100 samples of blood distributed among these species (common laboratory animals and man) no case was discovered in which the origin of the blood could not be directly determined by this test alone," Doctor Jacobs reported.

"Even such closely related species as the albino rat and the albino mouse are readily distinguishable, as are the dog and the cat, the rabbit and the guinea pig, the ox and the sheep, etc."

Government                    "More than 500,000,000 bushels of corn are now  
Corn Storage                sealed and held by the U. S. Government against loans  
Condemned                    of 57¢ a bushel," states an editorial in the American  
Agriculturist, April 27. "For the long time welfare  
of either corn growers or feeders this great hoard of corn is a menace. From the corn growers standpoint, it hangs over his head as a general market uncertainty and a constant drag upon prices. Even corn growers who now favor it will be up in arms when this tremendous volume of corn is released.

"From the standpoint of eastern dairymen, poultrymen and other feeders throughout the country, this hold-up of the natural flow of grain is utterly unfair and unjustified. Past experience with government crop hoarding has always been disastrous to everybody concerned."

Science Tackles                "The honey bee can't extract the nectar of ordinary  
Honey Bee and                red clover because the corolla of the bloom is too long  
Clover Problem                or the tongue of the bee is too short. This is a dis-  
                                  advantage to the producer of honey and to the producer  
of cloverseed, the latter having to depend on the bumble bee for pollina-  
tion. Now science has tackled this problem, which may be solved either  
by breeding bees with proper equipment or by breeding clover with shorter  
corollas or flower tubes. The scientists have decided that the latter  
course is easier, so they are experimenting with clover which promises to  
have its nectar accessible to the honey bee. But like true scientists  
they are not making any premature claims." (Pennsylvania Farmer, April.)

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